

Show of solidarity

Presidents from four countries visit Ukraine in show of support. **NEWS, PAGE 4**

Future NATO members?

Sweden and Finland take important step in effort to join NATO. **NEWS, PAGE 8**

Red Sox defeat Tigers

Boston roughs up former Sox pitcher Eduardo Rodriguez in 9-7 win. **SPORTS, PAGE 1**

Very warm



Chance for a shower in the a.m.; high of 82. **SPORTS, PAGE 6**

Hartford Courant



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"Selecting nominees to fill vacancies on our courts is one of the most important tasks a governor is required to do, and it is an honor to have the opportunity to elevate these two talented judges to the Supreme and Appellate Courts."

— Gov. Ned Lamont, announcing his nominations of Judge Joan K. Alexander and Judge Hope Seeley

Lamont moves to fill judicial posts

Governor selects two judges for promotions, nominates 11 lawyers to serve on Superior Court

By Edmund H. Mahony

Hartford Courant

Gov. Ned Lamont on Wednesday announced he has nominated a second wave of new judges this year, including Judge Joan K. Alexander to the state Supreme Court, Judge Hope Seeley to the Appellate Court and 11 state lawyers to serve as new judges of the Superior Court.

Alexander, 59, of Cromwell, currently sits

on the Appellate Court and would replace Supreme Court Justice Christine Keller, who announced she is taking a semi-retired status as a senior judge when she reaches the mandatory retirement age of 70 later this year. Alexander has been on the Appellate Court for two years and, before that, had been on the Superior Court since 2000.

In addition to her work on the bench, Alexander was the chief judge for the state judicial branch's criminal division, chair-

man of the sentence review division, and co-chairman of the judicial media committee. Before she was confirmed as a judge, Alexander was a state prosecutor. She is a graduate of Yale University and the University of Connecticut School of Law.

Seeley, 58, of Coventry, has been a Superior Court judge since 2013. She is assistant administrative judge in Hartford for the presiding criminal judge and had been assigned previously to trial courts in Tolland and Windham. Before taking the bench Seeley was a partner in the Hartford firm Santos and Seeley, which represented clients in the state and federal courts in complex

criminal cases. She is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and its school of law.

Seeley will replace Alexander when Alexander takes Keller's seat on the Supreme Court.

"Selecting nominees to fill vacancies on our courts is one of the most important tasks a governor is required to do, and it is an honor to have the opportunity to elevate these two talented judges to the Supreme and Appellate Courts," Lamont said in an email. "Judge Alexander has more than two decades of

Turn to Judges, Page 2



CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Warming up to spring

Alice Berstene, 6, of Bloomfield, lets the wind catch a blanket she and her mother Mary (not pictured) used for a picnic lunch Wednesday at Elizabeth Park in Hartford. Alice and her mom decided to picnic in the park to take advantage of the warm weather, with the temperature into the 70s. "We've been dying for spring!" said Mary Berstene.

Police look into alleged threats over suspension

Workers apparently face ire after school nurse disciplined

By Christine Dempsey

Hartford Courant

Police are investigating an allegation that some Hartford public school staffers were threatened in the wake of a decision to suspend a school nurse for her Facebook comments about LGBTQ+ students.

The threats came in the form of "hostile, vulgar, and threatening emails and phone calls," school spokeswoman Julia Skrobak said Wednesday. "Some of those threatening messages directly targeted our superintendent by referencing personally identifying information."

Hartford police spokesperson Lt. Aaron Boisvert confirmed that an investigation has been opened but said it is focusing only on alleged threats that targeted the Richard J. Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts, where the nurse works. He didn't elaborate.

Skrobak did not say how many disturbing calls and emails came in, nor was she specific about what was said. She said the response appeared to stem from inaccurate online accounts of the school nurse's comments, some by out-of-state special interest groups.

She said the online reports, "called into question the district's medical policies, alleged that the district is indoctrinating our students and accused district staff members of criminal behavior. These allegations are false."

She said no medical intervention takes



Roszena Haskins, the school district's director of diversity advancement, reads "Around Our Way on Neighbors' Day" to a group of Wolcott Elementary School students. The school cafeteria's walls are covered in murals that depict scenes from the book. **STAFF**

In West Hartford, gender study concerns remain

Social, emotional learning curriculum endures change

By Seamus McAvoy

Hartford Courant

For Natalie Wagner, a parent of four, West Hartford Public Schools' new social and emotional learning programs offer the kind of support that may have helped her when she was a student.

Wagner attended West Hartford schools but left after middle school, citing a lack of connection with the school

community. She wasn't sure what caused the lack of connection, at the time. Later in life, she identified "a lack of language within my community about something I was struggling with."

"I'm very grateful for the work the school district has done in developing this curriculum to help give students the vocabulary to talk about these things in a respectful way with one another," Wagner said. "I know it was said earlier that not enough people are coming out in support of this, because often we're just

Turn to Gender, Page 3

■ **Stefanowski would evaluate transgender athlete policy:** Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob Stefanowski declined Tuesday to embrace or reject Connecticut's policy of allowing transgender athletes to compete in girls' sports, an issue unexpectedly introduced by a new super PAC supporting him. **Connecticut, Page 1**

Police arrest man in subway attack

After daylong effort, suspect located on NYC corner, charged with terror offense

By Michael R. Sisak, Michael Balsamo and Jennifer Peltz
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The man accused of shooting 10 people on a Brooklyn subway train was arrested Wednesday and charged with a federal terrorism offense after the suspect himself called police to come get him, law enforcement officials said.

Frank James, 62, was taken into custody about 30 hours after the carnage on a rush-hour train, which left five victims in critical condition and people around the city on edge.

"My fellow New Yorkers, we got him," Mayor Eric Adams said.

James was awaiting arraignment on a charge that pertains to terrorist or other violent attacks against mass transit systems and carries a sentence of up to life in prison, Brooklyn U.S. Attorney Breon Peace said.

In recent months, James railed in online videos about racism and violence in the U.S. and about his experiences with mental health care in New York City, and he had criticized Adams' policies on mental health and subway safety. But the motive for the subway attack remains

Turn to Attack, Page 2



A police officer patrols the Brooklyn subway station Wednesday where people fled after an attack Tuesday.

JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

UConn Men: Newton commits, Akok departs

Former East Carolina guard Tristen Newton announced he will transfer to the UConn men's basketball team with an Instagram post on Wednesday. While Newton is coming, another current member of the UConn roster is going as Akok Akok announced his plans to enter the transfer portal. **Sports, Page 1**

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CONNECTICUT

ANTHONY TODT TRIAL

On witness stand, accused killer blames wife for kids' slayings

By Monivette Cordeiro

Orlando Sentinel

A day after jurors watched a videotaped confession in which Anthony Todt described suffocating his wife and children, he took the witness stand Wednesday and claimed he wasn't even present at their Celebration, Fla., home when his three kids were killed by their mother.

"I came home and my kids were dead," Todt said. "It was the most horrible day of my life. What made it more horrible was my wife died in front of me also."

Todt, testifying under questioning from his defense, said that his wife became fixated with reincarnation as her health declined, becoming convinced that if they "burned the family karma" in their current life, they would be reincarnated to a better life.

"Mr. Todt, what could have prevented Megan from killing her children?" Orange-Osceola Public Defender Bob Wesley asked his client.

"I have no idea," Todt testified. "We woke up that morning she was pain-free. Everything was good. ... That's the biggest thing that affects me. I didn't see this coming."

Both the state and defense rested Wednesday in the case against Todt, on the trial's third day of testimony. Jurors will return Thursday morning to hear closing arguments from attorneys before they begin deliberating.

Todt is charged with four counts of first-degree murder and one count of animal cruelty in the killings of 42-year-old Megan Todt; the couple's children Alek, 13, Tyler, 11, and Zoe, 4; and their dog Breezy. He has pleaded not guilty.

Defense attorneys presented no witnesses other than Todt.

In his testimony, Todt said his wife Megan Todt suffered from Lyme disease and heart conditions



Anthony Todt testifies during his trial at the Osceola County Courthouse, Wednesday. Todt, a Connecticut physical therapist is accused in the 2020 killings of his wife, children and dog, at their Central Florida home.

RICARDO RAMIREZ BUXEDA/ORLANDO SENTINEL

in her youth, then was diagnosed with drug-induced hepatitis in 2011, after which her health steadily declined.

"Before she got sick we were blessed with two wonderful boys," Todt told jurors on the stand. "She went from a mom who provided for everything... to a person who could barely walk stairs on certain days."

She became depressed following miscarriages in 2011 and 2019 and developed an interest in alternative medicine and Eastern religions, he said.

Todt claimed on the stand that, after he came home to find his kids dead in late 2019, his wife told him she had killed the children with a poisoned pie and stabbed them. He testified that he told her he would take the blame — and claimed he does not remember the confession jurors watched for hours Tuesday.

"I was covering for my wife," he said. "Obviously, unsuccessfully. I had no clue how my kids died."

Prosecutors picked at the inconsistencies in Todt's testimony

during their cross-examination, including where he was when he claims his wife killed the children.

Todt told jurors he drove to a condo they owned nearby after dinner to pick up some items for the children and did not see them eat the pie. He then said he walked back, played basketball with the children and left again to the condo.

But Todt said he never ended up going into the condo, instead falling asleep as he sat in his vehicle to charge his phone. He told jurors he woke up in the morning and walked back home, where his wife confessed to killing their children and then stabbed herself.

Assistant State Attorney Danielle Pinnell asked Todt if he tried to call for help using his phone.

"The [phone] battery never charged," Todt said. "... There were other phones in the house but Megan would not tell me where she hid them."

Law enforcement found Todt living with the blanket-wrapped decomposing bodies in January

2020 at his family's Celebration home on Reserve Place.

In the confession jurors saw Tuesday, Todt told detectives his wife, who was chronically ill, started watching videos that predicted an upcoming apocalypse and described how to reach "salvation," which led to them plotting the killings of their kids together.

Todt in the video described laying on top of Zoe and smothering her with a pillow for about 10 to 15 minutes. He said Megan Todt was outside when he killed their daughter but she helped him suffocate Alek by holding his legs, before he suffocated and stabbed Tyler.

He claimed in the video he killed his wife at her request after she stabbed and drugged herself, then in the weeks that followed tried to kill himself in a variety of ways, including overdosing on Benadryl and hanging himself, though he "chickened out" of using a knife.

On the witness stand Wednesday, he reiterated that claim, testifying he tried to kill himself 10 times but found it hard to stab himself.

"I chickened out, yes," he said. "I tried other means. I tried at least three episodes of Benadryl."

Todt testified he bought a pellet gun to kill himself after he could not purchase a firearm because of Florida's three-day waiting period.

"What kind of gun were you trying to buy?" Pinnell asked.

"Any gun they would sell me," Todt responded.

The prosecutor asked if Todt was aware the mandatory waiting period did not apply to shotguns.

"No," he said.

Todt told detectives he drove to Sarasota after the killings and accidentally left his phone at a Starbucks.

On the witness stand, he told Pinnell was in "no condition" to drive to Sarasota but did say he went to Publix, CVS, Academy Sports + Outdoors and fast-food restaurants after his family's deaths.

Todt said he had no recollection of his interviews with detectives, and only remembered falling and waking up in jail, which he thought was "purgatory."

"My testimony today is the fact that Megan killed her kids and killed herself," he says. "... I said things that have been proven incorrect."

Jurors on Tuesday also heard from several experts, including a medical examiner who said Megan Todt and her three children had been dead for "at least a couple weeks" before they were found by law enforcement.

Federal authorities and Osceola deputies were at the family's Celebration home Jan. 13, 2020, to arrest Todt on insurance fraud charges related to his physical therapy business when they found the bodies of his family.

The cause of death for all four victims was homicidal violence of "unspecified means" in association with a Benadryl toxicity, according to an autopsy. A forensic toxicologist testified the amount of Benadryl in the victims could have caused fatigue, lethargy or possibly a coma.

The medical examiner said the boys each had one non-fatal stab wound to their abdomens. Neither wound hit vital organs or caused hemorrhaging, which means they were stabbed after they died, former Orange-Osceola associate medical examiner Jennifer Nara told jurors.

Megan Todt, though, had two stab wounds that went at least eight inches deep into the abdominal cavity and hemorrhaging, Nara said, meaning she was stabbed while she was alive.

Closing arguments in the trial at the Osceola County Courthouse will begin Thursday at 10 a.m.

Staff writer Jeff Weiner contributed.

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Four top state leaders contract COVID-19

By Christopher Keating

Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — The entire top tier of the Connecticut state government has contracted COVID — the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and treasurer.

State Attorney General William Tong was the latest leader to contract the virus Wednesday as his office announced that he had tested positive and is experiencing mild symptoms.

Based on guidance issued under federal guidelines, Tong "will isolate and work from home for the next five days," said his spokeswoman, Elizabeth Benton.

Tong joins the highest-level leaders of the state who have all tested positive recently — Gov. Ned Lamont, Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, and state treasurer Shawn Wooden.

Lamont had remained in isolation through the past weekend and held Zoom calls Monday and Tuesday. But he was back to his regular schedule Wednesday, traveling to Groton before returning to an outdoor union rally by carpenters at Bushnell Park in Hartford.

"We've got a lot of community spread," Lamont said when asked by the Courant. "We're at 6.5% [positivity] today. We haven't been that high in a couple of months. Look, I'm on the back side of it. The symptoms were pretty mild. I had the boosters. I took the therapy. I'm feeling really good. It's not something that's going to interrupt our lives, but it really is spreading."

Concerning his advice for residents, Lamont said it is important to take advantage of temperatures in the 70s and heading toward 80 this week.

"Stay outside — like we are right here," Lamont said in Bushnell Park. "That's what I'm trying to do. I think weather is going to be on our side when it comes to the spread here. Get your damn vaccine. Don't hesitate. Don't say, 'Hey, this is behind us. We're all set now!'"

Lamont added, "Looking over in Shanghai, where everything is shut down. That's not going to happen here in Connecticut because our people are going to be careful."

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Gender

from Page 1

grateful that it's there."

But Wagner's sentiments, shared during a recent West Hartford Board of Education meeting nominally about approving the annual budget, aren't held by all.

Public comments revealed that the district's social and emotional learning curriculum — particularly the components that deal with gender, sexuality and identity — remains a point of contention or confusion for many, months after its introduction.

"As parents, we should reserve the right to have input about content that is provocative," said one parent, who identified themselves as Graham.

"You like to say don't mess with trans kids, but it seems to me you're messing with everyone's kids," said Kyle Zelazny, an attorney and West Hartford resident.

Social and emotional learning, now an omnipresent phrase, is relatively new.

In districts in Connecticut and throughout the country, administrators were moved to rethink elements of school curriculum through an equity lens in the wake of the murder of George Floyd in May 2020.

"We cannot protect and shield our children from the realities of social injustices that happen in our world," Dr. Lorna Thomas-Farquharson, West Hartford school board chair, told the Courant.

"And that created an energy of 'we need to move this further along for our children.'"

In West Hartford, school officials spent the next year meeting with stakeholders, experts and members of the community to develop curricula, and framework for social and emotional learning was introduced last fall.

Roszena Haskins, the district's director of equity enhancement, wrote in an email that the curriculum aims to "provide students with understandings and skills that they need to increase their social consciousness and act in

ways that foster respect, empathy, fairness and universal humanity."

Pushback has been present within the community from the beginning, with some parents concerned over the ability of young children to comprehend sometimes complex concepts of gender and sexuality — and whether these topics are age-appropriate for young learners.

Outside groups have also played a role. Controversy over the material in West Hartford was further inflamed following a November 2021 article published in the National Review, which highlighted the availability of books about transgender people to elementary-age students. School administrators said they were later flooded with threatening phone calls and emails sent to school staff.

The threats mirror an incident now underway in Hartford following the suspension of a Hartford Public Schools nurse for Facebook comments about LGBTQ+ students.

A district spokesperson said Tuesday that school staff have received several threatening calls and emails — now under investigation by police — which appear to stem from inaccurate accounts spread by out-of-state special interest groups regarding the nurse's suspension.

In West Hartford, some of the curriculum has been revised, Thomas-Farquharson said. Some books have been removed from the reading list as school officials reached "mutual understanding" with parents and caregivers.

"That was because of the communication between the parents and caregivers and administrators," she said.

Though fears have been stoked of school districts "grooming" or indoctrinating students to adhere to a narrow view of gender ideology, Thomas-Farquharson insists that this is not the case.

"The purpose of [social and emotional learning] is not to try to convince, it's not to try to indoctrinate," she said.

"It's a matter of informing and

allowing for, if there are additional questions or further exploration that a child may have, they know that they are in a safe environment, they are part of a safe school system that will welcome [them]."

"It is learning in terms of how to be a good citizen, how to be a good human being, how to be a good friend, how to be good to yourself," she continued.

Critics of social and emotional learning concepts argue that schools should focus on the basics — reading, math and science — and leave the task of instilling other values to the family.

But Thomas-Farquharson doesn't believe social and emotional learning is in conflict with the ability of parents or caregivers to instill their values in the home.

"When it comes to raising and teaching values and skills, that has to be in conjunction with the family and the household," she said.

"We are not trying to usurp the important role that a family plays. We're trying to collaborate, we're trying to extend that learning process."

The West Hartford school system's equity and anti-racism vision statement says as much.

"We make a solemn promise to identify and dismantle all elements of systemic racism and historical inequities," the policy reads. "We vow to clear paths, with a relentless duty to those in traditionally marginalized groups. We pledge to partner with ALL families in the service of the success of each child."

Thomas-Farquharson acknowledges that some members of the community continue to oppose the curriculum, but said she welcomes continued dialogue as it evolves.

"Our goal is always to enhance what we have," she said. "We welcome the feedback and input, and we're so appreciative to those parents and caregivers who are willing to engage and share and learn."

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Threats

from Page 1

place in Hartford Public Schools without the consent of a parent or guardian. Such a practice would be illegal. She apparently was referring to an inaccurate interpretation of the nurse's Facebook comment about a student who the nurse said is on "puberty blockers."

In a March 28 letter to the school community, Superintendent Leslie Torres-Rodriguez said the employee made "inappropriate comments regarding Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning (LGBTQ+) Hartford Public Schools (HPS) students on social media."

"The comments were made in a Facebook group and described private and personal details about a specific student," Torres-Rodriguez said. Although it was a personal social media account, "the manner in which the comments were shared, and the values they express, are totally inconsistent with what we stand for," she added.

The school nurse was placed on administrative leave March 28 while school officials conduct an internal investigation. She remained on leave Wednesday as the investigation continues, Skroback said.

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WAR IN UKRAINE

Display of unity as new phase looms

Zelenskyy visited by 4 leaders; Biden OKs \$800M for aid

By Adam Schreck and Oleksandr Stashevskyi
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — The presidents of four countries on Russia's doorstep visited Ukraine on Wednesday and underscored their support for the embattled country, where they saw heavily damaged buildings and demanded accountability for what they called war crimes carried out by Russian forces.

The visit by the presidents of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia was a strong show of solidarity by the leaders of the countries on NATO's eastern flank, three of them — like Ukraine — once part of the Soviet Union.

The four traveled by train to the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, to meet with their Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and visited Borodyanka, one of the towns near Kyiv where evidence of atrocities was found after Russian troops withdrew to focus on the country's east.

"The fight for Europe's future is happening here," Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda said, calling for tougher sanctions, including against Russia's oil and gas shipments and all the country's banks.

Elsewhere, in one of the most crucial battles of the war, Russia said more than 1,000 Ukrainian troops had surrendered in the besieged southern port of Mariupol, where Ukrainian forces have



Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda, from left, Polish President Andrzej Duda, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Latvian President Egils Levits and Estonian President Alar Karis pose Wednesday in Kyiv. UKRAINIAN PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE

been holding out in pockets of the city. A Ukrainian official denied the claim, which could not be verified.

Russia invaded on Feb. 24 with the goal, according to Western officials, of taking Kyiv, toppling the government and installing a Moscow-friendly one. But the ground advance slowly stalled and Russia lost potentially thousands of fighters in seven weeks of war. The conflict has killed untold numbers of Ukrainian civilians and forced millions more to flee. The fighting has also rattled the world economy, threatened global food supplies and shattered Europe's post-

Cold War balance.

A day after he called Russia's actions in Ukraine "a genocide," Biden approved \$800 million in new military assistance to Ukraine, saying weapons from the West have sustained Ukraine's fight so far and "we cannot rest now." The weapons include artillery systems, armored personnel carriers and helicopters.

Appearing alongside Zelenskyy in an ornate room in Kyiv's historical Mariinsky Palace on Wednesday, the European leaders — Estonian President Alar Karis, Polish President Andrzej Duda, Latvian

President Egils Levits, and Lithuania's Nausėda — reiterated their commitments to supporting Ukraine politically and with military aid. "We know this history. We know what Russian occupation means. We know what Russian terrorism means," Duda said. He said those who committed war crimes as well as those who gave the orders should be held accountable.

"If someone sends aircraft, if someone sends troops to shell residential districts, kill civilians, murder them, this is not war," he said. "This is cruelty, this is banditry, this is terrorism."

A report commissioned by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe found "clear patterns of (international humanitarian law) violations by the Russian forces in their conduct of hostilities." The report was written by experts selected by Ukraine and published Wednesday by the Vienna-based organization that promotes security and human rights.

The report said there were also violations by Ukraine, but concluded those committed by Russia "are by far larger in scale and nature."

Ukraine has previously acknowledged that there

could be "isolated incidents" of violations and has said it would investigate.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has denied his troops committed atrocities, and on Tuesday insisted Russia "had no other choice" but to invade. He said the offensive aimed to protect people in parts of eastern Ukraine and to "ensure Russia's own security." He vowed it would "continue until its full completion and the fulfillment of the tasks that have been set."

He insisted Russia's campaign was going as planned despite a major withdrawal after its forces failed to take the capital and suffered significant losses.

Following those setbacks, Russian troops are now gearing up for a major offensive in the eastern Donbas region, where Moscow-allied separatists and Ukrainian forces have been fighting since 2014, and where Russia has recognized the separatists' claims of independence.

Military strategists say Moscow believes local support, logistics and the terrain in the region favor its larger, better-armed military, potentially allowing Russia to finally turn the tide in its favor.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said 1,026 troops from the Ukrainian 36th Marine Brigade had surrendered at a metals factory in the city.

But Vadym Denysenko, adviser to Ukraine's interior minister, rejected the claim, telling Current Time TV that "the battle over the seaport is still ongoing today."

Texas sticking to truck inspections on border

Pressure building on Abbott to ease mileslong backups

By Paul J. Weber
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Wednesday defied mounting pressure to immediately end truck inspections that have gridlocked the U.S.-Mexico border for days, saying that despite mileslong backups and spoiled produce, he would not rescind his new order at all bridges until he gets more assurances of security.

Abbott said he was only ending inspections at one international bridge after announcing what he described as an agreement for more enhanced security with Nuevo Leon Gov. Samuel García, whose Mexican state is across the border from Laredo.

But that would not bring relief to idling truckers stacked up elsewhere along Texas' 1,200-mile border, including in cities where backups have lasted for more than 12 hours and frustrated truckers have blocked bridges in protest. That includes the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge, which has been effectively closed

since Monday by trucker protests.

Abbott said he hoped officials in the three other Mexican states that border Texas would follow Nuevo Leon and also promise more security.

"I understand the concerns that businesses have trying to move product across the border," Abbott said in Laredo, where he was joined by García. "But I also know well the frustration of my fellow Texans and my fellow Americans caused by the Biden administration not securing our border."

Pressure on Abbott has come even from allies of the two-term Republican governor.

The Texas Trucking Association, which has endorsed Abbott for reelection, said that the current situation "cannot be sustained" as the delays postponed deliveries and threatened to empty store shelves.

The Mexican governors of Coahuila and Tamaulipas, which both border Texas, also sent Abbott a letter calling the inspections overzealous and said they are "creating havoc and economic pain" on both sides of the border.

Mexico's federal government has said Abbott's order is causing "serious damage"

to trade, and that cross-border traffic had plummeted to a third of normal levels.

On Wednesday, White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki called Abbott's order "unnecessary and redundant."

The gridlock is the fallout of an initiative that Abbott says is needed to curb human trafficking and the flow of drugs. Abbott ordered the inspections as part of "unprecedented actions" he promised in response to the Biden administration winding down a public health law that has limited asylum-seekers in the name of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

But critics question how the inspections are meeting Abbott's objective, while business owners and experts complain of financial losses and warn U.S. grocery shoppers could notice shortages as soon as this week.

Frustration is also spreading within members of Abbott's own party: Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller, a Republican, called the inspections a "catastrophic policy" that is forcing some trucks to reroute hundreds of miles to Arizona.

"I do describe it as a crisis, because this is not the normal way of doing busi-



Barriers block the entrance to the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge in Texas. Mexican truckers are protesting Gov. Greg Abbott's inspection mandate. MICHAEL GONZALEZ/GETTY

ness," said Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez, whose county includes the bridge in Pharr. "You're talking about billions of dollars. When you stop that process, I mean, there are many, many, many, many people that are affected."

The shutdowns and slowdowns have set off some of the widest backlash to date of Abbott's multibillion-dollar border operation, which he has made the cornerstone of his administration. Texas has thousands of state troopers and National Guard members on the border and

has converted prisons into jails for migrants arrested on state trespassing charges.

The disruptions at some of the world's busiest international trade ports could pose economic and political threats to Abbott, who is seeking a third term in November. Democrat Beto O'Rourke, the former presidential candidate who is running against Abbott, said during a stop in Pharr on Tuesday that the inspections were doing nothing to halt the flow of migrants and were worsening supply chain issues.

Mexico supplies about two-thirds of the produce sold in Texas.

Ed Anderson, a professor at the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas, compared the disruptions with those caused by February's trucker blockade in Canada that forced auto plants on both sides of the border to shut down or scale back production.

Anderson said consumers would likely begin noticing the effects before the end of this week. "Either prices are going to spike or shelves are going to be low."

Meadows removed as registered voter in North Carolina

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Mark Meadows, a former chief of staff to President Donald Trump, has been removed from North Carolina's list of registered voters after documents showed he lived in Virginia and voted in that state's 2021 election, officials said Wednesday.

Questions arose about Meadows last month, when North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein's office asked the State Bureau of

Investigation to look into Meadows' voter registration, which listed a home he never owned — and may never have visited — as his legal residence.

A representative for Meadows, a former congressman from the area, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Meadows frequently raised the prospect of voter fraud before the 2020 presidential election, as polls showed Trump trailing Joe

Biden, and in the months after Trump's loss, to suggest Biden was not the legitimate winner.

In his 2021 memoir, Meadows repeated the baseless claims that the election was stolen.

Judges, election officials in both parties and Trump's own attorney general has concluded there was no evidence of widespread voter fraud. Experts point to isolated incidents of intentional or unintentional violations of voter laws in every

Public records indicated Meadows had been registered to vote in Virginia and North Carolina, where he listed a mobile home he did not own as his legal residence. Meadows listed the mobile home in Scaly Mountain as his physical address Sept. 19, 2020, while he was serving as Trump's chief of staff in Washington.

Meadows later cast an absentee ballot for the general election by mail. Trump won the state by just over 1 percentage point.



Mark Meadows listed a North Carolina mobile home as his legal residence. PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP 2020

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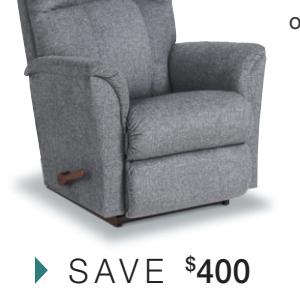
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WORLD & NATION

Guilt runs deep for draft dodgers

Fight or flee? For some Ukrainians, it's a real dilemma

By Jeffrey Gettleman and Monika Pronezuk
The New York Times

CHISINAU, Moldova — Vova Klever, a young, successful fashion photographer from Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, did not see himself in this war.

"Violence is not my weapon," he said.

So shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 and Ukraine prohibited men of military age from leaving the country, Klever sneaked out to London.

Klever's mistake was writing to a friend about being smuggled out and making it to London.

The friend posted their conversation on social media.

It went viral, and Ukrainians all over the internet exploded with anger and resentment.

"You are a walking dead person," one Twitter message said. "I'm going to find you in any corner in the world."

Thousands of Ukrainian men of military age have left the country to avoid participating in the war, according to records from regional law enforcement officials and interviews with people inside and outside Ukraine.

Ukrainian society has been mobilized for war against a much bigger enemy, and countless Ukrainians without military experience have volunteered for the fight.

To maximize its forces, the government has taken the step of prohibiting men ages 18 to 60 from leaving, with few exceptions.

All this has forced many Ukrainian men who do not want to serve into taking illegal routes into Hungary, Moldova and Poland and other neighboring countries.

Even among those convinced they fled for the



Ukraine has prohibited men 18 to 60 from leaving the country. Above, volunteers receive weapons training last month in Kyiv. VOR PRICKETT/THE NEW YORK TIMES

right reasons, some said they felt guilty and ashamed.

"I don't think I can be a good soldier right now in this war," said a Ukrainian computer programmer named Volodymyr, who left shortly after the war began and did not want to disclose his last name, fearing repercussions for avoiding military service.

"Look at me," Volodymyr said, as he sat in a pub in Warsaw drinking a beer. "I wear glasses. I am 46. I don't look like a classic fighter, some Rambo who can fight Russian troops."

He took another sip and stared into his glass. "Yes, I am ashamed," he said. "I ran away from this war, and it is probably my crime."

Ukrainian politicians have threatened to put

draft dodgers in prison and confiscate their homes. But within Ukrainian society, even as cities continue to be pummeled by Russian bombs, the sentiments are more divided.

A meme recently popped up with the refrain, "Do what you can, where you are."

It is meant to counter negative feelings toward those who left and assure them they can still contribute to the war effort. And Ukrainian women and children, the vast majority of the refugees, face little backlash.

But that is not the case for young men, and this is what blew up on the young photographer now in London.

In mid-March, Olga Lepina, who has worked as a

modeling agent, said Klever sent her husband a message saying he had made it to London.

Her husband wrote back: "Wow! How?"

"Through Hungary with the smugglers for 5k \$," Klever replied, according to screenshots of the conversation provided by Lepina. "But that's just between us, shush!"

Lepina said she and Klever had been friends for years. She even went to his wedding. But as the war drew near, she said, Klever became intensely patriotic and a bit of an online bully.

When she found out he had avoided service, she was so outraged that she posted screenshots of the conversation on Instagram.

Klever, who is in his 20s,

was bombarded with death threats. Some Ukrainians resented that he used his wealth to get out and called it "cheating."

Responding to emailed questions, Klever did not deny skipping out on his service and said he had poor eyesight and had "been through a lot lately."

"You can't even imagine the hatred," he said.

Klever gave conflicting accounts of how he exited the country and declined to provide details. But for many other Ukrainian men, Moldova has become the favorite trap door.

Moldova shares a nearly 800-mile border with western Ukraine. And unlike Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, Moldova is not part of the European Union, which means it has fewer resources to control its frontiers.

Within days of the war erupting, Moldovan officials said, Moldovan gangs posted advertisements on Telegram, a popular messaging service in Eastern Europe, offering to arrange cars, even minibuses, to spirit out draft dodgers.

When Lepina shamed Klever, she was no longer in Ukraine herself. She had left, too, for France, with her husband, who is not a Ukrainian citizen. Every day, she said, she wrestles with guilt.

"People are suffering in Ukraine, and I want to be there to help them, to support them," she said. "But at the same time I'm safe and I want to be here."

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Another challenge in Sacramento

Shooting that left 6 dead muddies city's revitalization push

By Kathleen Ronayne
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The mass shooting that police say was a gun battle between rival gangs that left six dead and 12 wounded earlier this month shook the downtown core of California's capital — and created another challenge for a city trying to redefine itself as a destination for more than just government workers.

In recent years, downtown Sacramento has benefited from billions of dollars of development but has been rattled by rising crime, protests resulting in property damage and an economic drubbing caused by the pandemic.

Now, the city is reeling from the aftermath of the April 3 shooting, when at least five gunmen fired 100 shots as people left bars and nightclubs.

The violence just blocks from the Capitol highlights the challenges many urban centers are facing as struggles with crime and homelessness persist despite revitalization efforts.

Though Sacramento is home to more than 500,000 people, it's considered sleepy by California standards. The derisive nickname "Cowtown" grew out of its agricultural roots.

Today, downtown is at the center of the city's efforts to become an entertainment and food destination. Local officials have worked to rebrand the city as "America's Farm to Fork Capital," a nod to a large number of well-regarded restaurants that get ingredients from the region's many farms.

A major part of the revitalization is a six-block strip of K Street anchored by a renovated convention center and the Golden 1 Center, home to the NBA's Sacramento Kings and a regular stop for major



A woman wipes her eyes last week as she passes a memorial near the shooting site in Sacramento, Calif. **RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP**

concert tours. The shooting happened on a block that's home to high-end nightclubs but also dotted by vacant buildings that once housed coffee shops and restaurants.

Police have made two arrests connected to the shootings, but no one has been charged with homicide. A third suspect was named Tuesday.

The violence "came at a really pivotal moment for downtown," said Sacramento City Councilwoman Katie Valenzuela, who represents the area. "It's causing me to sort of reflect on where we go from here — and as a city, not just as downtown."

A century ago, K Street was a bustling, diverse center of activity. But the strip struggled as people moved into the suburbs — giving way to decades of failed revival efforts, including the construction of a mall in the late 1960s and the launch of a light rail

commuter line in the 1980s.

A fresh wave of investment came to the area about a decade ago, with new businesses opening on K Street as part of an effort to revive downtown after the financial crisis. The Golden 1 Center's 2016 opening sought to build on that, helping generate \$6.7 billion in nearby investment and spurring the opening of 150 new businesses, according to the Downtown Sacramento Partnership business group.

Then the pandemic hit, sending many of downtown's 100,000 workers home and forcing some businesses to close. Now about 45,000 people work downtown daily, according to the partnership.

As employment fell, crime rose. Aggravated assaults, burglaries and vandalism were up in 2020 and 2021 compared to the five previous years for a roughly 100-square block area that includes the Capitol and the arena, according to Sacramento police crime data.

Northeastern University.

The city's central hub has also served as the epicenter for protests focusing on racial justice and police misconduct. Protesters in 2018 shut down a downtown freeway entrance and blocked fans from entering the arena after Sacramento police shot and killed a young Black man. Then demonstrations in 2020 over the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis swept the city. Many downtown properties were vandalized and some were ransacked.

"We've had a lot of different realities kind of hit downtown in different waves," said Dion Dwyer, director of public space services for business partnership.

Now Sacramento is among the ranks of cities recovering from mass shootings. Since 2017, there have been 133 mass shootings in the U.S., according to a database compiled by Associated Press, USA Today and

Dayton, Ohio, in 2019 was shaken when a gunman killed nine people and wounded 17 just after midnight at a bar in the main entertainment district for the city of 140,000. Sandy Gudorf, president of the Downtown Dayton Partnership, said officials mounted an "intentional strategy to reclaim the district" after the shooting.

Within three weeks of the violence, there was a free performance by Dave Chapelle, who lives outside the city. The community rallied to support local businesses, but it took time for people to feel comfortable returning to nightlife. The pandemic hit just as that activity was rebounding, Gudorf said.

"In people's minds and hearts they knew that this did not define who we are. It was an incident, it was a tragic incident where we lost lives and people were injured," she said. "I think it just took time to process all

of that."

Sacramento Mayor Darrel Steinberg repeatedly said people should continue to feel comfortable going downtown. "It's not one or the other" when it comes to enjoying the city's entertainment offerings and feeling safe."

Rachel Muro, a manager at the locally owned Capital Books several storefronts away from the shooting, said downtown has problems like any city but that people should not avoid it. The bookstore's owners recently opened a board game cafe just around the corner.

"We believe in this part of town enough to continue to help make it thrive," Muro said.

Elsewhere on the block, the area's troubles are obvious, with many office and restaurant spaces vacant. Homelessness downtown in Sacramento has been a vexing problem.

Last week the City Council voted to place a measure on the November ballot requiring the city build more shelter beds and ban encampments on public land. Valenzuela, the councilwoman, opposed the plan and said it was inappropriate to debate that proposal so soon after the tragedy.

At a brewery a few blocks from the shooting site, co-workers enjoying a drink reflected on whether the shooting changed their view of the city.

Braden Kolb, who was at a downtown bar for a friend's 30th birthday the night before the shooting, said he patronizes downtown about once a month and that the shooting "is not going to change my behavior."

But his friend Jason Slieter said the incident made him wonder if Sacramento is the right place to raise his family, saying he felt a sense of heaviness downtown when coming to work after the six were killed.

"It definitely felt like something had changed," he said.



Ukrainian oligarch Viktor Medvedchuk, left, speaks to Russian President Vladimir Putin during a meeting in October 2020 at the Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow. **SPUTNIK**

WAR IN UKRAINE

Detention of oligarch close to Putin irritates Moscow

By Yuras Karmanau
Associated Press

LVIV, Ukraine — Ukraine's detention of fugitive Ukrainian oligarch Viktor Medvedchuk, the former leader of a pro-Russian opposition party and a close associate of Russian President Vladimir Putin, has been met with enthusiasm in Kyiv and irritation in Moscow.

Analysts said Medvedchuk will become a valuable pawn in the Russia-Ukraine talks to end the devastating war that the Kremlin has unleashed on its ex-Soviet neighbor.

Medvedchuk was detained Tuesday in a raid by Ukraine's state security service, or the SBU.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has proposed that Russia could win Medvedchuk's freedom by trading Ukrainians now held captive by the Russians.

The 67-year-old oligarch escaped from house arrest several days before the hostilities broke out Feb. 24 in Ukraine.

Medvedchuk is facing between 15 years and a life

in prison on charges of treason and aiding and abetting a terrorist organization for mediating coal purchases for the separatist, Russia-backed Donetsk republic in eastern Ukraine.

Medvedchuk is believed to be the godfather of Putin's youngest daughter.

His detention has sparked a heated exchange between officials in Moscow and Kyiv.

Dmitry Medvedev, deputy chair of Russia's Security Council and the country's former president, posted threats to Ukrainian authorities on the messaging app Telegram, referring to them as "freaks" and warning them to "carefully look around and firmly lock the doors at night."

Zelenskyy has released

a photograph of Medvedchuk sitting in handcuffs and wearing a camouflage uniform with a Ukrainian flag patch, in which he looks tired but unharmed.

Medvedchuk's wife, Oksana Marchenko, has appealed to Zelenskyy, calling for her husband to be released.

"My husband is being persecuted for political reasons against the laws of Ukraine," Marchenko said.

Medvedchuk is the head of the political council of Ukraine's pro-Russian Opposition Platform — For Life party, the largest opposition group in the Ukrainian parliament. Medvedchuk is one of its 44 lawmakers in the 450-seat Rada.

The activity of his party has been suspended for the duration of the war at Zelenskyy's initiative.

at the Penta Center, said Wednesday.

"The fate of Medvedchuk will undoubtedly become a subject of bargaining and one of the points of undercover agreements between Kyiv and Moscow," Fesenko said.

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The activity of his party has been suspended for the duration of the war at Zelenskyy's initiative.

WAR IN UKRAINE

Finland, Sweden take steps toward possible NATO entry

By Jari Tanner
Associated Press

HELSINKI — European Union nations Finland and Sweden reached important stages Wednesday on their way to possible NATO membership as the Finnish government issued a security report to lawmakers and Sweden's ruling party initiated a review of security policy options.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24 triggered a surge in support for joining NATO in the traditionally militarily non-aligned Nordic countries, with polls showing a majority of respondents willing to join the alliance in Finland and supporters of NATO in Sweden outnumbering those against the idea.

Finland, a country of 5.5 million, shares the EU's longest border with Russia, an 833-mile frontier. Sweden has no border with Russia.

Russia, for its part, has warned Sweden and Finland against joining NATO, with Kremlin officials saying it would not contribute to stability in Europe. Officials said Russia would respond to such a move with retaliatory measures that would cause "military and political consequences" for Helsinki and Stockholm.

One of Russian President Vladimir Putin's stated reasons for invading Ukraine was that the country refused to promise that it would not join NATO.

Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin, speaking Wednesday in Stockholm in a joint news conference with her Swedish counterpart, Magdalena Andersson, said Finland is ready to make a decision on NATO "within weeks" rather than months following an extensive debate in the 200-seat Eduskunta legislature.



Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson, left, greets Finnish counterpart Sanna Marin before a meeting on NATO entry Wednesday in Stockholm. **PAULWENNERHOLM/TT**

thing that could happen in Finland in late May and a bit later in Sweden.

Complicating things in Sweden is the general election in September, which is likely to be dominated by the NATO issue.

In Finland, President Sauli Niinisto said he was convinced that his country's decision on NATO will be ready well ahead of NATO's June 29-30 summit in Madrid, Spain.

On Wednesday, the Finnish government issued a much-awaited report on changes in Finland's security environment that lawmakers will start debating after the Easter break.

The report addresses the pros and cons of Finland's possible membership in NATO, focusing on supply threats, economic effects, cybersecurity and hybrid threats.

"The war started by Russia endangers security and stability in entire Europe," Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto said as he presented the report. "Trust in Russia has plummeted."

Andersson said the Swedish government is working on a security environment analysis together with all parties in the 349-seat Riksdag legislature. She said the report is due May 31 but could be finished earlier.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Actor pleads guilty to forcibly touching woman at NYC club

From news services

NEW YORK — Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. pleaded guilty Wednesday to forcibly touching a woman at a New York nightclub in 2018.

The guilty plea came nearly three years after the Oscar-winning "Jerry Maguire" star was arrested in the case that saw several delays as his lawyers sought to get charges reduced or dismissed.

Gooding, 54, accused of violating three different women at various Manhattan night spots in 2018 and 2019, pleaded guilty to just one of the allegations.

He told the judge he "kissed the waitress on her lips" without consent at the LAVO New York nightclub.

Gooding's plea deal calls for no jail time. If he continues counseling for six months, he can withdraw the misdemeanor plea and plead guilty to a lesser violation of harassment.

Gooding was arrested in June 2019 after a 29-year-old woman told police he squeezed her breast without her consent at Magic Hour Rooftop Bar & Lounge near Times Square.

A few months later, he was charged in two additional cases as more women came forward to accuse him of abuse. The new charges alleged he pinched a server's buttocks after making a sexually suggestive remark to her at TAO Downtown and forcibly touched a woman inappropriately at the LAVO nightclub, both in 2018.

Gooding had previously pleaded not guilty to six misdemeanor counts and denied all allegations of wrongdoing.

Along with the criminal case, Gooding is accused in a lawsuit of raping a woman in New York City in 2013. After a judge issued a default judgment in July because Good-

ing hadn't responded to the lawsuit, the actor retained a lawyer and is fighting the allegations.

Malware alert: Multiple U.S. government agencies issued a joint alert Wednesday warning of the discovery of malicious cyber tools created by unnamed advanced threat actors that they said were capable of gaining "full system access" to multiple industrial control systems.

The public alert from the Energy and Homeland Security Departments, the FBI and National Security Agency did not name the actors or offer details on the find. But their private sector cybersecurity partners said the evidence suggests Russia is behind the tools, which were configured to initially target North American energy concerns.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, which published the alert, declined to identify the threat actor.

The U.S. government has warned critical infrastructure industries the gird for possible cyberattacks from Russia as retaliation for severe economic sanctions imposed on Moscow in response to its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine.

Naval task force: The U.S. Navy said Wednesday that it will begin a new task force with allied countries to patrol the Red Sea after a series of attacks attributed to Yemen's Houthi rebels in a waterway that's essential to global trade.

Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, who oversees the Navy's Mideast-based 5th Fleet, declined four times to directly name the Iran-backed Houthis in his remarks to journalists announcing the task force.

However, the Houthis have launched explosive-laden



Texas tornadoes: Michelle Light salvages what she can from her home Wednesday near Salado, about 50 miles north of Austin. Twenty-three people were injured Tuesday when twisters swept through central Texas. "There's not much left," Bell County Judge David Blackburn said of Salado. "Buildings really reduced to rubble... It's pretty devastating." **JAY JANNER/AP**

drone boats and mines into the waters of the Red Sea, which runs from Egypt's Suez Canal in the north, down through the narrow Bab el-Mandeb Strait in the south that separates Africa from the Arabian Peninsula.

The Combined Maritime Forces command, a 34-nation organization that Cooper oversees from a base in Bahrain, already has three task forces that handle piracy and security issues both inside and outside of the Persian Gulf. The new task force will be commissioned Sunday and will see the USS Mount Whitney, a Blue Ridge-class amphibious command ship previously part of the Navy's African and European 6th Fleet, join it.

The Red Sea is a vital shipping lane for both cargo and the global energy supplies, making any mining of the area a danger not only to Saudi Arabia but to the rest of the world.

Clinton attorney: The criminal prosecution of a Hillary Clinton campaign lawyer

charged with lying to the FBI during the Trump-Russia investigation can move forward, a judge ruled Wednesday in denying a defense bid to dismiss the case.

The ruling means Michael Sussmann, charged last year by special counsel John Durham, remains set for trial on May 16 in Washington's federal court.

Sussmann is charged with lying to the FBI during a September 2016 meeting in which he relayed concerns from cybersecurity researchers about a potential secret back channel of communications between servers of the Trump Organization and Russia-based Alfa Bank. The FBI investigated the matter but found no such suspicious links.

Prosecutors allege that Sussmann misled the

FBI's then-general counsel by saying that he was not attending the meeting on behalf of a particular client when he was actually presenting the information on behalf of the Clinton

campaign and a technology executive with whom he had worked.

Sussmann's lawyers have argued that his ties to the Clinton campaign were already well-known to the FBI.

U.S. District Judge Christopher "Casey" Cooper said in a six-page ruling Wednesday that the dispute was ultimately up to a jury to decide.

New Mexico wildfire:

Firefighters scouted the

drought-stricken mountainsides around a New Mexico village on Wednesday as they looked for

opportunities to slow a wind-driven wildfire that

a day earlier had burned at

least 150 homes and other

structures while displacing

thousands of residents and

forcing the evacuation of

two schools.

Homes were among the

structures that burned Tues-

day, but officials did not have

a count of how many were

destroyed in the blaze that

torched at least 6.4 square

miles of forest, brush and

grass on the east side of the

community of Ruidoso, said

Laura Rabon, spokesper-

son for the Lincoln National

Forest.

No deaths or injuries

were reported from the fire

fanned by winds between

50 mph and 90 mph, Rabon

said.

Ruidoso is about 140 miles

northeast of El Paso, Texas.

Disaster in Philippines: As

search and rescue efforts

increased with the arrival

of equipment, the death toll

has risen to at least 56, with

28 others missing, after a

summer tropical depression

that unleashed days of

pounding rain caused

landslides and floods in the

central and southern Philip-

pines, officials said Wednes-

day.

Nearly 200 villagers were

injured mostly in the land-

slides in the hard-hit city of

Baybay in central Leyte

province over the weekend

and early Monday, officials

said. At least 20 storms and

typhoons batter the Philip-

pines each year.



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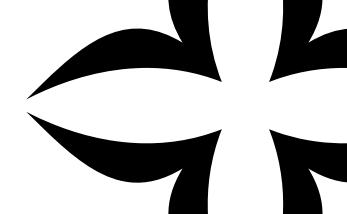
Dr. Taylor has served as a family medicine physician for many years, most recently in Torrington since 2012. Dr. Taylor, who earned her Medical Degree from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, is a member of the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Connecticut State Medical Society. Dr. Taylor is delighted to welcome new patients in East Hartford.

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BUSINESS

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Mask mandate extended on public transit to May 3

CDC makes ruling despite pressure from airlines and Republican lawmakers

By Heather Murphy

The New York Times

Despite great pressure from airlines, the hospitality industry and Republican lawmakers to lift the rule requiring masks on planes and trains, in airports and on some buses, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it would extend the federal transportation mask requirement for two weeks Wednesday, five days before it was set to expire. The mask mandate is now set to expire May 3, the agency said in a statement.

The CDC cited the spread of the omicron subvariant of the coronavirus known as BA.2, which the agency said now makes up more than 85% of new U.S. virus cases, in its decision to extend the mask requirement.

"In order to assess the potential impact the rise of cases has on severe disease, including hospitalizations and deaths, and health care system capacity, the CDC order will remain in place at this time," the agency said in a statement, noting that it would be monitoring this variant while it determined

whether to extend the rule yet again.

Before the decision, Dr. Ashish Jha, the White House COVID-19 response coordinator, told NBC's "Today" show that Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the CDC director, would be using a "framework that the CDC scientists create" to determine whether the extension was necessary.

"We'll make a decision collectively based on that," he said while simultaneously calling it a "CDC decision."

The possibility of an extension had provoked applause from some passengers, who say the requirement makes them feel safer in crowded planes and airports, as new coronavirus variants spread, and disappointment from others, who feel that it's absurd to require masks in the sky and in airports when they are no longer required in most other indoor settings.

In recent months, airlines and the hospitality industry have been lobbying the White House to overturn both the mask rule and the requirement to test before returning to the United States from abroad. In one of the most recent letters, dated April

8, Airlines for America, an industry group representing eight airlines; the U.S. Travel Association, a trade group representing more than 1,000 public and private organizations catering to business and leisure travelers; the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the nation's largest business lobbying group; and the American Hotel and Lodging Association, which represents thousands of hotels, sent a letter to Jha, arguing that what they see as unnecessary measures were hurting the country economically.

"While the public health benefits of these policies have greatly diminished, the economic costs associated with maintaining these measures are significant," they wrote.

Before the decision, major unions representing flight attendants and Transportation Security Administration employees, the two groups that have to deal with enforcing the rule, declined to take a stance.

"Whatever the agency puts in place, we have to comply with it," Hydrick Thomas, the president of the union that represents TSA employees, said Tuesday.



Food is distributed at a Last Mile Food Rescue pop-up food pantry last November in Cincinnati. DENISE JOHNSON/LAST MILE FOOD RESCUE

Nonprofits suffer hard times

Inflation eats into services and ability to raise funds as donations begin to dwindle

By Dan Parks

Associated Press

Last Mile Food Rescue in Cincinnati started shopping in November for a refrigerated box truck to move perishable donations from food retailers to distribution sites. The purchase would take some of the pressure off overstretched volunteers, who would have to make three or more runs in their cars to haul as much food as a single truckload.

But Last Mile is experiencing sticker shock. Prices for the kind of truck its leaders have in mind have soared thousands of dollars in recent months, to as much as \$80,000. For an organization with an annual budget of \$650,000, that's too big a hit to absorb.

Frustrated, the charity started looking for used trucks, but the prices of used vehicles have shot up as well.

"We look every day," says Julie Shifman, Last Mile's executive director. "We hope that we will be able to afford it or a major donor might be able to come in to help us."

Last Mile is far from alone.

Nonprofits of all kinds are getting hit hard by inflation, experts say. Price and wage increases are hurting nonprofits in multiple ways, making it harder to keep up with their own basic operational expenses while also forcing them to curtail the services they provide.

At the same time, there are early signs that the burst of generosity donors showed in the first year of the pandemic may be slowing considerably.

"It's not a pretty equation," says Shannon McCracken, chief executive of the Nonprofit Alliance, an advocacy group.

Nonprofits that provide annual cost-of-living increases for their workers are getting hit with higher payroll costs of about 6% even without any increase based on merit or seniority, McCracken says.

David Lipsetz, CEO at the Housing Assistance Council, says inflation has eaten into the number of affordable-housing units his organization can provide.

The council underwrites loans for housing developments at below-market rates in some of the poorest regions of the country, and it strives to maximize the amount of housing it can build with limited resources.

"We're operating on extraordinarily thin margins," says Lipsetz. "We are putting

those loans out the door as cheaply as we can."

When the price of building materials goes up 10%, says Lipsetz, there's usually no room in the loan to accommodate that increase. Lipsetz says that sometimes his nonprofit can rework the terms of the loan or find additional sources of financing, but it doesn't always work out.

"It's stalled countless projects for us, right in the middle of a period of time when housing and shelter are the most important things needed to weather the storm of a pandemic," says Lipsetz. "For us, a modest increase in costs can shut down a project in an area of the country where it's needed the most."

Nonprofits by their nature are in a poor position to adapt to rising costs, experts say. While McDonald's can offset higher beef costs by raising the cost of a Big Mac, for many nonprofits the only options are to cut services or hope donors will come to the rescue.

Kelley Kuhn, CEO of the Michigan Nonprofit Association, says nonprofits that provide basic goods and services, like food and housing, are being hit the hardest. Nonprofits also are struggling to retain workers being lured away by businesses able to offer higher salaries, Kuhn said.

Suit: Musk broke law buying Twitter stock

By Michael Liedtke

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Elon Musk's huge Twitter investment took a new twist with the filing of a lawsuit alleging that the billionaire illegally delayed disclosing his stake in the social media company so he could buy more shares at lower prices.

The complaint filed Tuesday in New York federal court accuses Musk of violating a regulatory deadline to reveal he had accumulated a stake of at least 5%. Instead, according to the complaint, Musk didn't disclose his position in Twitter until he'd almost doubled his stake to more than 9%. That strategy, the lawsuit alleges, hurt less wealthy investors who sold shares in the

San Francisco company in the nearly two weeks before Musk acknowledged holding a major stake.

Musk's regulatory filings show that he bought a little more than 620,000 shares at \$36.83 apiece on Jan. 31 and then continued to accumulate more shares on nearly every single trading day through April 1. Musk, best known as CEO of the electric car maker Tesla, held 73.1 million Twitter shares as of the most recent count Monday. That represents a 9.1% stake in Twitter.

The lawsuit alleges that by March 14, Musk's stake in Twitter had reached a 5% threshold that required him to publicly disclose his holdings under U.S. securities law by March 24. Musk didn't make the required disclosure until April 4.

That revelation caused Twitter's stock to soar 27% from its April 1 close to nearly \$50 by the end of April 4's trading, depriving investors who sold shares before Musk's improperly delayed disclosure the chance to realize significant gains, according to the lawsuit filed on behalf of an investor named Marc Bain Rasella. Musk, meanwhile, was able to continue to buy shares that traded in prices ranging from \$37.69 to \$40.96.

The lawsuit is seeking to be certified as a class action representing Twitter shareholders who sold shares between March 24 and April 4, a process that could take a year or more. Musk spent about \$2.6 billion on Twitter stock — a fraction of his estimated wealth of \$265 billion, the largest individual fortune in the world.

Yellen asks China to urge Russia to end war

By Fatima Hussein

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Wednesday urged China to use its "special relationship with Russia" to persuade Russia to end the war in Ukraine.

Beijing "cannot expect the global community to respect its appeals to the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity in the future if it does not respect these principles now," Yellen said at the Atlantic Council, a nonpartisan think tank.

Yellen's speech at the Atlantic Council comes a week before the world's finance ministers and central bank governors convene in Washington for the International Monetary Fund-World Bank Group Spring Meetings.

Her direct appeal to China underscores an increasing frustration that the United States and its allies have with a country that has only deepened its ties with Russia since the invasion of Ukraine.

"The world's attitude towards China and its willingness to embrace further economic integration may well be affected by China's reaction to our call for resolute action on Russia," she said.

The U.S. and its allies have used sanctions to weaponize the global economy against Russia over its war in Ukraine. There aren't any countries yet subverting the sanctions, but there are fears among the allies that China, which has criticized the Western sanctions, could potentially do so.

Also of concern is India, which has taken a neutral stance on the Russia-Ukraine war and recently made a major purchase of Russian oil, a source of tension with the U.S. as it tries to cut off Moscow's energy income.

Yellen said that countries that undermine the sanctions the U.S. and its allies have imposed on Russia will face consequences for their actions.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Battery firm will build Ky. factory

FRANKFORT, Ky. — A Japanese electric vehicle battery technology company will build a factory in Kentucky, creating 2,000 jobs in a \$2 billion investment, Gov. Andy Beshear said Wednesday.

The Envision AESC plant at Bowling Green in south-central Kentucky will produce battery cells and modules to power the next generation of electric vehicles, the Democratic governor said.

The plant's products will be made for multiple auto manufacturers globally.

The new development follows last year's announcement that Ford and its battery partner will build twin battery plants outside the Glendale community in central Kentucky. That project will create 5,000 jobs to produce electric vehicle batteries.

Calif. plans 2026 goal for EV sales

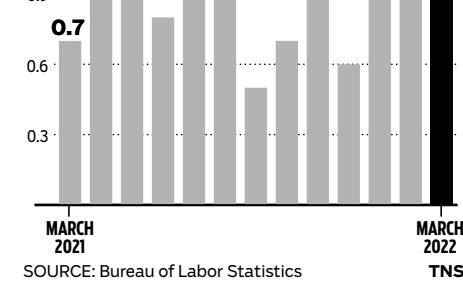
SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California wants electric vehicle sales to triple in the next four years to 35% of all new car purchases, an aggressive target set as part of the goal to phase out the sale of gas-powered cars.

The proposal released Tuesday by the California Air Resources Board puts the state on a roadmap to achieve Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom's ambitious goal of phasing out the sale of new gas-powered cars by 2035. It begins a months-long state review process and the plan requires approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Emissions spewed from gas-powered passenger vehicles make up about a quarter of the state's total greenhouse gas emissions — more than any other single source, according to the state air board.

Producer price index

Index of prices U.S. producers receive for goods and services, percent change from previous month



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Helen Bennett
Executive Editor
hbennett@courant.com

OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

Medicare cleaning up FDA's mistake on Aduhelm

By Lisa Jarvis
Bloomberg Opinion

Medicare has decided once and for all not to pay for Biogen's new Alzheimer's drug Aduhelm unless patients are enrolled in a clinical study.

The agency's final call was unsurprising, but blessedly rational. It corrects the Food and Drug Administration's mistake in letting Aduhelm onto the market. At the same time, it leaves room for future Alzheimer's drugs to be covered — as long as studies show they are safe and effective.

This will encourage beneficial innovation in Alzheimer's drug development, and ensure that patients get medicines that can truly help them.

The decision by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services marks a turning point in Aduhelm's contentious journey.

In 2014, the drug raised hopes among Alzheimer's doctors and patients when, in a small phase 2 trial, it appeared to clear amyloid plaques in patients' brains and —

in a first for the field — ease their cognitive decline. Biogen began a large phase 3 study to confirm those results and, to prepare for the drug's eventual approval, invested \$2.5 billion in manufacturing capacity.

In larger trials, however, the early results couldn't be replicated. And that seemed to end all hope for the drug — until Biogen said it found buried in the data a signal that the drug could still be effective. Then, according to an investigation by Stat News reporters, the company secretly lobbied the FDA for Aduhelm's approval.

In 2020, the FDA's scientific advisory committee criticized the company's data mining and recommended against approving Aduhelm. Then the agency stunned everyone by approving the drug anyway, based on its ability to clear amyloid plaques, with the proviso that Biogen would run another trial to prove that the plaque-clearing would slow cognitive decline.

Biogen priced the drug at \$56,000 per year. And Medicare, faced with the possi-

bility of paying for treatment for millions of qualified Americans, had to schedule a big hike in monthly premiums for Part B coverage. (After an outcry, Biogen halved the price.)

Now that CMS has settled on a way to limit spending on the drug until its benefit is proved, Medicare will be able to dial back that premium increase. The decision also likely spells the end of Aduhelm, which doctors were already shunning.

Biogen, patient advocacy groups and even some members of Congress have suggested that CMS's refusal to cover Aduhelm could have a chilling effect on innovation in Alzheimer's. They have argued that drug companies will have no incentive to develop new drugs if insurers won't cover them.

But in a clear explanation of its thinking on Aduhelm, CMS pointed out that the opposite is true: "The CMS final decision provides clarity on the criteria to receive coverage for any drug in this class (and thus what evidence is necessary to meet

the standard for 'reasonable and necessary' for this particular treatment."

A drug can be considered innovative only if it improves patients' lives. In a disease as devastating as Alzheimer's, even marginal improvements matter. But evidence from several studies indicates that Aduhelm fails to offer that.

Medicare has laid a path for other companies to understand where the bar for coverage is set: A drug must be safe and offer a meaningful benefit to patients. This is good news for Eli Lilly & Co. and Roche, both of which have Alzheimer's therapies that will soon be up for approval.

CMS, which is expected to foot the bill for Medicare patients' drugs, perhaps had greater incentive than the FDA to make sure the drug works. But the FDA is the agency that should have set the bar. It should make sure that Medicare never again has to correct its mistakes.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Cellphone may be war's top weapon

By James Stavridis
Bloomberg Opinion

As the war in Ukraine pushes well into its second month, much of the outcome thus far — including Russian failures in executing their battle plans — is the result of logistics. Moscow has struggled abysmally to get gasoline, ammunition and food to its front-line troops. On the Ukrainian side, the flow of weapons and other materiel from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the U.S. has been breathtaking.

Russia is now forced to reassess its objectives and consolidate its forces in territory it already controlled before the invasion, in the southeastern Donbas region. So far, at least, it is a stunning setback for President Vladimir Putin.

But one area of warfare hangs in the balance: information.

Despite ample video evidence of widespread war crimes by Russian troops, provided by Ukrainian forces and international journalists, the Kremlin is still managing the information war with energy, imagination and fairly effective counternarratives.

It's a familiar litany by now: The Ukrainian government is composed of Nazis; corpses of civilians in the cities of Bucha and Irpin are staged; missile strikes on targets like maternity hospitals and train stations are "false flag" operations conducted by the Ukrainians; and it is Ukraine, not Russia, that is preparing to use nerve agents.

For the Russians, this is not a trivial exercise. A significant part of the world will regard this conflict through the diet of information it consumes. As the war drags on, this will greatly influence global willingness to support sanctions and increasingly higher energy prices. Inside Russia, Putin has control over almost every aspect of the media and the internet, at least for the moment, and he can use that to tap into the nationalism of the Russian people.

But in the rest of the world — particularly China and India, where well over a third of the world's population lives — there are deeply conflicting narratives at work. (China has cautiously supported Russia in the conflict; India is more or less neutral.) The same is true in a significant portion of Latin America and Africa, where there is some sympathy for Putin's claims that the West has somehow threatened Moscow.

The Russian leader points to the U.S. invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan as far worse than his "special operation" in Ukraine. The Russians are experts at manipulating information technically, producing so-called deepfake videos that are marketed globally across propaganda



People charge their cellphones April 6 in a public building in Bucha during Russia's offensive in Ukraine. RONALDO SCHEIMDT/GETTY-AFP

machines like the Russian Television Network, or RT.

How can the Western democracies and Ukraine win the battle of information? What are the techniques and tactics of information warfare, which are just as important as providing anti-aircraft and antitank weapons in achieving success?

America must begin with humility as it seeks to make its case.

We must compete in that marketplace, selling the idea that the Western vision of democracy, liberty, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and gender and racial equality are inherently and obviously the only worldview that matters. Messaging, especially on the internet and social media, is central to this soft sell.

In many parts of the world, the U.S. and its allies now have to explain patiently to leaders and citizens why those ideas matter so deeply and what their societies can gain from them.

Second, there is a fraught technological competition. Winning requires resources devoted to telling the stories from the bloody battlefields to the diplomatic boardrooms. Videos have to be crisp and convincing, showing in graphic detail the war crimes being committed daily in Ukraine. This needs to be packaged and moved over the social networks in creative ways that capitalize on the West's advantages.

— from getting them in the hands of social influencers in dozens of key countries to setting up professional-quality websites that are easy to navigate.

Obtaining, validating and editing the millions of cellphone hits generated every day is a key task. So is working with Big Tech to find ways around the blocking of sites and internet connections by autocratic powers.

Elon Musk's Starlink satellite internet service, provided free to Ukrainians, is a prime example.

For the U.S. government, all this requires interagency cooperation. There is no longer an overarching U.S. information agency as there was during the Cold War. That mission today is broadly conducted by the office of the undersecretary of state for public diplomacy and public affairs.

But the State Department budget, never

large, has been hammered over the last decade; it needs help to conduct an information campaign effectively. Many other Cabinet agencies deal with promoting America's image abroad, including the Departments of Commerce, Defense and Homeland Security. They must sync up messages and move them globally.

The CIA must continue its deep involvement in obtaining classified information, and disseminating unclassified versions — including inside Russia itself. The Joe

Biden administration's unprecedented releases of sensitive intelligence before the Russian invasion were key in lining up an unexpected outpouring of global support for the Ukrainian cause.

Unfortunately, the Russians have a significant head start in the information war.

For a decade, they have been effective at intruding into Western democracy, especially by spreading internet conspiracy theories in the run-ups to national elections in the U.S. and Europe.

The West, however, has a major messaging advantage: Its values are the right ones. Russia is conducting an illegal campaign of brutal war crimes in Ukraine; the Ukrainian people are bravely defending their democracy; the West is providing significant military, diplomatic and economic support; and history will judge Putin's fellow travelers harshly.

But the U.S. cannot simply use its wealth and power to hammer the rest of the world with its argument. Competing in the global marketplace of ideas will require a touch of humility, significant resources, a well-run campaign between nations and government agencies, and — above all — steady belief in the values we cherish.

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France's election shows how political parties can fade away



Perhaps the most interesting thing about last weekend's French election isn't who won, but who lost — and what it might mean for America.

French President

Emmanuel Macron and

Marine Le Pen of the National Rally party won enough of the vote — 27.8% and 23.2% respectively — to head into a runoff April 24. Close behind them were an assortment of hard-right and hard-left candidates.

And in the also-ran category: Valerie Pécresse, 4.8%, and Anne Hidalgo, 1.8%. Amazingly, their parties — the Republicans and the Socialists — dominated French politics for decades, and now they're fast on their way to obscurity.

It's a little bit like if America held a giant nonpartisan "jungle primary" and the Republican and Democratic candidates combined didn't break double digits, never mind fail to make the runoff.

Of course, France's politics and political system are quite different from ours so the analogy shouldn't be taken too literally. There's a reason France had five republics, and we're still working on our first.

Macron created his party, La République En Marche, in 2016 just so he could run for president.

Still, French politics have changed a lot in recent years.

The most notable change is that the center of gravity has moved rightward.

Le Pen, daughter of the far-right nativist Jean-Marie Le Pen, is a national populist who, according to a YouGov poll, led Macron among all voters under the age of 55.

Meanwhile, in part because Macron has branded himself as the only centrist in French politics, the left has become more radical.

Jean-Luc Mélenchon came in third with nearly 22% of the vote, barely a point shy of Le Pen. Mélenchon wants to scrap the Fifth Republic and start over.

Another difference between France and America is that "liberalism" over there still has more of its original meaning.

A French liberal, or "neoliberal," on economics is a champion, or at least a proponent, of *laissez faire* economics.

Meanwhile, both the far left and far right alike are far friendlier to state-driven regulation of the economy. The differences mostly manifest themselves over which

winners and which losers the state should pick.

Given that our politics are moving in a French direction, it's an interesting thought experiment: What if America had its own French-style jungle primary?

It's harder than it might sound because polls aren't entirely reliable. Partisanship in our polarized two-party system often drives big shifts in voter attitudes on some issues. For instance, when Donald Trump railed against free trade, a lot of Republicans and Democrats switched positions.

It's easy to imagine an Elizabeth Warren or Bernie Sanders moving toward something close to Mélenchon's agenda of constitutional radicalism and confiscatory taxation. And even if they wouldn't go that far, you can be sure someone would. That's part of the problem with France's system, the bigger the field in the first round, the more incentive there is for fringe candidates to throw their hats in.

On the right, the picture is murkier.

The loudest voices on the right champion their own versions of populism and nationalism. Fox's Tucker Carlson, who has praised Sen. Warren's economic program, has also promoted anti-immigration "replacement theory," which is all the

rage in France.

While I suspect Carlson would leap into the race, he'd have a lot of competition in his lane. A host of Republicans have embraced the idea that the GOP should become the party of the working class, at war with Big Tech and "woke corporations" generally. What this means in practice, varies widely. What unites them is rejection, in whole or in part, of the American right's traditional *laissez faire* dogma about not using the state for picking winners and losers.

Who would be a Macron-like centrist? I'm not sure and, not wanting to hurt their standing among Republicans, I'm reluctant to offer a guess.

What I am certain about is that while I have ample contempt for both parties these days, I am grateful for our two-party system and constitutional safeguards. The founders were as concerned about the tyranny of autocracy as they were about the tyranny of the majority and the tyranny that would result from any single "faction" that might attain momentary power thanks to periodic gales of populist rage.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Hartford

STATE OF CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT JUVENILE MATTERS

ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice To: Crystal Loethscher, mother of child born on 3/30/21 of parts unknown.

A petition has been filed seeking: Termination of parental rights of the above named child(ren).

The petition, whereby the court's decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on: 4/28/22 @ 3:15pm at SCJM 25 School Street, Rockville, CT 06006

Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper having a circulation in the town/city of Enfield, CT

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is to be held.

4/14/2022 7190678

LEGAL NOTICE FOR PARTY-SELECTED DELEGATES TO CONVENTIONS

A certified list of party-selected candidates for the Republican Party in the Town of Bristol for participation as Delegates to the Conventions of said Party specified below is on file in my office at 111 North Main St., Bristol, CT, and copies are available for public distribution:

Conventions
1st Congressional, 31st State Senatorial, State, Judge of Probate

Theresa Pac
Bristol Town and City Clerk
4/14/22 7190631

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Connecticut

TOWN OF FARMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the Farmington Historic District Commission will hold an ONLINE public hearing on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. on the following application:

Robert J. Mandel application for Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness to replace windows and French door at 93 Main Street.

Interested parties are encouraged to participate in this ONLINE Public Hearing. The link to this meeting may be found on the Town of Farmington's website at www.farmington-ct.org/about-farmington/calendar-meetings. A copy of this proposal is on file in the Planning Department at Town Hall, Farmington, CT and may also be accessed online at www.farmington-ct.org/government/historic-district-commission/farmington-historic-district-commission-or or by calling the Planning Department at 860-675-2323.

Dated at Farmington, Connecticut, this 24th day of March 2022.

James Calicano, Secretary

Farmington Historic District Commission
4/17/2022 7185167

Manchester CT Minority Opportunity

Silktown Roofing is currently soliciting SBE/MBE/DBE subcontractors for Public Notice:

Manchester CT-REBID Bowers Elementary Addition State Project # 077-0239 RVN (PLA Project) Trades: carpentry, portable restrooms, Material Supply: flatstock metal, lumber, OOS. Bid submis on Tuesday, April 19, 2022. If additional time is needed for your submis please call our estimating department. Interested parties are asked to contact us at subcontracting@silktown-roofing.com. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

4/14/2022 7191280

The Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA), a quasi-public agency of the state of Connecticut, is seeking a qualified consultant to provide project coordination services in the Parkville area of Hartford, CT.

Please use the following link to access the RFP:

<http://crda.ct.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/3-22-2022-RFP-Parkville-eDevelopmentCoordinationServices.pdf>

3/26 - 4/25/2022 7177253

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Car Reviews

Saturdays in MOTORING

Connecticut

Request For Quotation #06-2204

The State of Connecticut Judicial Branch invites janitorial contractors to submit quotations to provide services at a Judicial Branch location in Hartford, Connecticut.

Quotations must be received by 11:30 A.M. on TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022. Late bids will not be accepted.

ONLY VENDORS CURRENTLY REGISTERED UNDER THE STATE'S SMALL BUSINESS SET-ASIDE PROGRAM ARE ELIGIBLE TO BID.

Bid package may be obtained from the Judicial Branch Purchasing Services web site below:

www.jud.ct.gov/external/news/busopp/

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

718967

Hartford

Request For Quotation #04-2126

The State of Connecticut Judicial Branch invites qualified contractors to submit quotations to provide services at a Judicial Branch location in Hartford, Connecticut.

VENDORS CURRENTLY REGISTERED UNDER THE STATE'S SMALL BUSINESS SET-ASIDE PROGRAM ARE ENCOURAGED TO BID.

Bid package may be obtained by accessing the Judicial Branch Purchasing Services web site below:

www.jud.ct.gov/external/news/busopp/

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

4/14/22 7190929

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Connecticut

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE

21 Burnham Street
East Hartford, CT 06108

To:
Estate of Albert S. Rizzuto
21 Burnham Street
East Hartford, CT 06108

Douglas J. Rizzuto, Heir of Albert S. Rizzuto
312 Pattonwood Drive
Southington, CT 06489

Albert Rizzuto, Heir of Albert S. Rizzuto
1 Matthes Drive
Suffield, CT 06078

Donna Ripley, Heir of Albert S. Rizzuto

OBITUARIES BY TOWN**Berlin**

Marie Blankenburg

Lorraine L. Smith

Bristol

Kristine E. Bilodeau

Taffy L. Hart

Cromwell

Benjamin L. Rakowski

East Granby

Michael B. Guarco, Sr.

East Hartford

Edith I. Paradis

Walter D. Willett

Farmington

Hermann J. Ritzenhoff

Glastonbury

Francis M. Buckley

Granby

Michael B. Guarco, Sr.

Hartford

Cynthia Clarke

Terrence McNulty

Manchester

Edith I. Paradis

Marlborough

Francis M. Buckley

Meriden

Frank Miner, Jr.

New Britain

Marie Blankenburg

Philip V. DeConti, Sr.

Taffy L. Hart

Other Towns in CT

John R. Elmore

Norman L. Leblanc

Mary Ann P. Provost

Mark W. Wilson

Out of State

Norman L. Leblanc

Plainville

Robert Michalik

Rocky Hill

Lorraine L. Smith

South Windsor

Maurice Beloin

Southington

Cecilia D. Bouchard

Waterbury

Frank Miner, Jr.

Hermann J. Ritzenhoff

Windsor

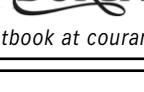
Jean Taylor

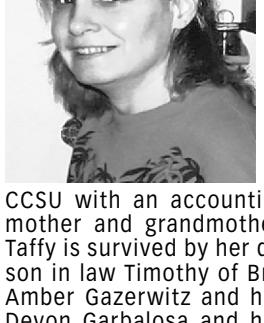
* Denotes name listing only.

Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES**DeConti, Sr., Philip V.**

 Philip Vincent DeConti, Sr. passed away peacefully on April 10, 2022. He was born in New Britain on September 29, 1932 to Peter & Pauline (Failla) DeConti and lived in New Britain his entire life. He is survived by his daughters: Pamela Dorn of Prospect, CT, and Amy Tupper and her husband David of Sarasota, FL.; sons: Philip Jr. and his wife Tamera DeConti of Madeira Beach, FL; Christopher and his wife Phyllis DeConti of Southington, CT; Patrick DeConti and significant other Eva Orlinski of South Windsor, CT; and Matthew DeConti of FL. He was a very proud of and deeply loved his 15 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren with another great grandchild on the way. Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Philip's family on Tuesday, April 19 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington. His Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. in St. Jerome Church, New Britain. Burial with military honors will follow in St. Mary Cemetery, New Britain. To share a condolence with his family please visit www.newingtonmemorial.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**Hart, Taffy L.**

 Taffy Lee Hart, 71, of Bristol, passed away on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 surrounded by her family at their home after a long battle with cancer. She was born on November 13, 1950 in Patuxent River Maryland, daughter of the late Roger Hart and Joyce (Naylor) Moody. Taffy enjoyed games, sewing, knitting and crocheting. She was a graduate of CCSU with an accounting degree. Taffy was a loving mother and grandmother and will be missed deeply. Taffy is survived by her daughter A.J. Garbalosa and her son in law Timothy of Bristol; her loving grandchildren Amber Gazerwitz and her husband Michael of Bristol, Devon Garbalosa and his wife Karen of Windsor; siblings Roger Hart and his wife Carol of CT, Lori Syriac of NC, Patricia Andrews and her husband Jimmy of CT, several nieces and nephews and dear friends. Per her request, there will be no services. Taffy wished for those who knew her to celebrate her life instead of mourning her passing. To leave an online message of condolence, share a memory or a photo, please visit Taffy's tribute page at www.O'Brien-FuneralHome.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**Wilson, Mark W.**

 Mark William Wilson's life story ended abruptly on Tuesday afternoon, April 5, doing what he loved with his best friend – on the frisbee golf course in Guilford, fifty-seven years after his birth on January 23 in Washington, DC. After his early years in Maryland and Virginia, he moved to Westbrook, CT in 1971. From age 17, he worked in restaurants all around the shoreline, eventually going to St. John, USVI, for 10 seasons, where he indulged his love of the water, especially diving and sailing. After Hurricane Maria blew the restaurants off the island he returned to Westbrook, resuming his restaurant life and graduating from New England School of Engineering, specializing in electronics. He was fortunate to find opportunity at Whelen Engineering, where he was recognized for his leadership, technical knowledge, and fix-it skills. Golf and frisbee golf became new passions, including trips to Ireland and Scotland with golfing buddies. All along the way he reveled in the people he met and worked with. Mark grieved the death of his brother, Russell, in 1986 and his father, Ted (also Russell) in 1989, with an enduring love that surfaced at the strangest times. Only his mother, Marie, remains of this once tight-knit family. Not only will Mark live on in our hearts, he lives in the people who received his no longer needed tissues; may they use them well. Family and friends will meet at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 56 Great Hammock Rd., Old Saybrook, for a memorial service on Saturday, April 16, at 11AM. Those who want to join in creating a lasting memory should consider a donation to the Susie Foundation, 15 Carleton Rd., West Hartford, CT 06107, which provides help for families living with ALS. To share a condolence message or memory of Mark with his family, please visit the Robinson, Wright & Weymer Funeral Home website at www.rwwfh.com. Live life to the fullest, Make a difference along the way, And you will live forever.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Share memories, express condolences, and celebrate life in the obituary section on courant.com.

**OBITUARIES****Blankenburg, Marie (Kulmacz)**

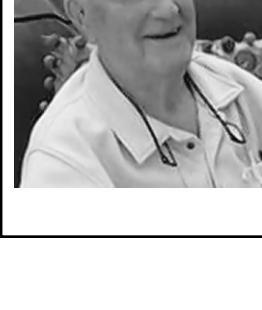
In the early morning hours of April 4, 2022, Marie Kulmacz Blankenburg passed away peacefully in her sleep at her daughter's house in Massachusetts at the age of 94. Marie was born in New Britain on August 5, 1927 to Mary and Stanley Kulmacz. Growing up she loved to sing and played center on the New Britain Girl Pros basketball team for five years, igniting a life-long love of sports. She was an avid bowler, ice skater, and skier throughout her life, and never stopped rooting for the UCONN women's basketball team. She married her husband Richard in 1947 and became the driving force in a large and extended family. She was known to generations of New Britain high school students, teaching athletics at Holy Cross and managing the cafeterias for the public school system. She was passionate about music and her family fondly remembers her singing at home and in church, as well as her enthusiasm for opera at the Metropolitan Opera Center and musicals at the Goodspeed. Generous with smiles, hugs, and an infectious, full-bodied laugh, Marie always looked forward to being surrounded by people, whether it was at raucous backyard family functions, going out for Polish food with her grandchildren, playing cards and dominoes with her friends at the Marjorie Moore Village in Berlin, or having lunch every Tuesday with her cousins for over 40 years – a tradition she was able to enjoy once again earlier in 2022. She could always be counted on for a freshly-baked cookie, homemade piece of fiery cinnamon candy, or Jell-O shot, depending on the occasion.

Marie is predeceased by her husband Richard, son "Skip" Blankenburg, daughter Bernadette Schreiner, brother Joseph (Josephine) Kulmacz, sister Florence (Chester) Roski, brother-in-law Allen (Patricia) Blankenburg, and brother-in-law Robert Blankenburg. She is survived by her sister Lorraine (Carl) Fries, sister-in-law Marilyn (Robert) Blankenburg, daughters Diane (Arthur) Parker and Maribeth (Derek) Ritchie, daughter-in-law Pamela Blankenburg and son-in-law Richard Schreiner; grandchildren Casey (Daniel Lyman) Schreiner, Scott (Ashley) Schreiner, Brooke Schreiner, AJ Parker, Ashley (William) Pulman, Laine (Casey Monahan) Blankenburg, Maia Ritchie, and Jayden Ritchie; great-grandchildren Hudson, Indy, and Arlo Schreiner and William Cameron Pulman; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Marie's funeral services will be held at the Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Burritt Hill in New Britain on Tuesday, April 19 from 8:30-11AM followed by a mass at Saint Paul's Church in Berlin at 11:30AM. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her name can be made to Connecticut Foodshare at foodshare.org

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**Guarco, Sr., Michael Bruno**

Michael Bruno Guarco, Sr., 90, of East Granby, beloved husband for 65 years of the late Eileen (Kelly) Guarco, passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 10, 2022, surrounded by his family at his son's home in Granby. Michael was born in North Adams, MA on June 8, 1931, son of the late Doro and Matilda (Tambornini) Guarco, and was raised on his family's farm, Mountain View Farm, in Granby. He was a graduate of Hall High School in West Hartford, Class of 1949 and, while growing up and after high school, Michael worked at his father's bar and restaurant in Hartford, Doro's Tavern and Doro's Grill. Michael proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Korean War in a M.A.S.H., and was honorably discharged as a Corporal in 1954. After the war, he sold heavy machinery and equipment with his brother in Agawam, MA before starting State Line Oil in December of 1961. As the company grew, he partnered with his brother, Alessio; and as a true family business, his wife Eileen helped as a bookkeeper while staying home to raise their five children. Over the years, Michael worked with his children, nephews, and other family members and the company expanded into a plumbing, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning business that served families and commercial customers throughout North Central Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. Dedicated to the Town of Granby, Michael and his family gave back to the town in many ways including serving as a member of the Lions Club of Granby, a Charter Member of UNICO, Granby Chapter, and as a member of the Chamber of Commerce in Granby which honored him as Business Man of the Year in 2004. A proponent of education, he also served on the Board of Trustees for many years at Westfield State University. Michael was involved in the Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors of Connecticut, where he was also a Past President. Most of all, Michael loved spending time with his family and friends. While Michael had many long-time business associates and friends, his first priority was always his family. He kept a photo of his wife in his wallet from when they were dating and he never missed a Sunday night card game at his house in Granby, East Granby, or on Cape Cod. He loved traveling with his wife and children throughout Europe and spending time at their homes in Hyannis, MA and in Florida. After purchasing his first home on Cape Cod in 1970, he applied for his first Shellfish License in 1972, a hobby which he enjoyed every summer. Michael loved nothing more than gathering clams, oysters, and some home-made wine and salami for a big dinner that he prepared for his wife, children, and their families. A devout Catholic throughout his life, Michael was a lifelong parishioner of St. Therese Parish in Granby, and also attended Mass at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice, FL, and at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Hyannis, MA. Michael loved cars since he was a child and later became fond of antique vehicles. He first purchased an antique fire truck and over the years added many award-winning automobiles to his collection, including a 1930 Chevy and a Packard which he was very proud of. He bowled in Men's Leagues for many years at Simsbury Lanes, enjoyed snowmobiling, playing cards at the State Line Bar & Grill and, more recently, at the Cambridge House in Granby, and making wine and salami which he shared with everyone. Michael leaves to cherish his memory, his five children, Michael Guarco, Jr. and his wife Judy, Alan Guarco, Mary Anne Guarco, Brian Guarco and his wife Anne, and John Guarco and his wife Karen, all of Granby; five grandchildren, Anna Guarco of Granby, Peter Guarco and his wife Hannah of Burlington, VT, Lila Guarco and her husband Stephen Hoppi, Jr. of East Hartland, Brieana Watson and her husband Nicholas of Granby, and Nicholette Guarco of Granby; six great-grandchildren, Brodie and Isabella Cheney, John and Celia Guarco, Stephen Hoppi, III, and Vincenzo Watson; his sister, Dorina Konopka of Washington, DC; a nephew, David A. Guarco and his wife Jewels of Granby; two special cousins, Ellen Guarco of Hartford, CT and Carl Guarco of Granby; numerous cousins throughout the United States, Italy, and Argentina; and he looked forward to the birth of another great-grandson in August. In addition to his loving wife, who passed peacefully less than a month ago, he was predeceased by a brother and sister-in-law, Alessio and Rosetta Guarco; and a grandson, Michael B. Guarco, III. His family will receive friends on Tuesday, April 19, 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., at the Hayes-Huling & Carmon Funeral Home, 364 Salmon Brook St., Granby. A Mass of Christian Burial will be Celebrated on Wednesday, April 20, 11 a.m., at St. Therese Parish, 120 West Granby Rd. (Route 20), Granby. Burial, with Military Honors, will follow in Granby Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Granby Lions Club, P.O. Box 191, Granby, CT 06035 or to UNICO, Granby Chapter, P.O. Box 333, Granby, CT 06035. For online condolences please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**Elmore, John Russell (Russ)**

John Russell Elmore (Russ), 101, of Troy NY, formerly of New Hartford, CT, passed away peacefully early Sunday morning, April 10, 2022. He is survived by his son, John Elmore of Salina, KS, and daughters Susan Elmore of Chatham, NY, and Nancy Wendlandt of Bourne, MA; plus ten grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, two brothers, and a large clan of nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by his treasured wife, Barbara (Bobbe), and his youngest daughter, Sharon Lewis of Barkhamsted, CT, as well as by six brothers and two sisters, Russ's long life has had many chapters. (For more about of his story: <https://simplechoicescremation.com/tribute/details/828/John-Elmore/obituary.html#tribute-start>) A private family memorial gathering will be held to celebrate and remember Russ. He will be laid to rest with his wife Bobbe in the Barkhamsted Center Cemetery, near Sharon's home in Barkhamsted, CT. Your warmest memories and prayers will reach him, any time, any place.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**Clarke, Cynthia**

Cynthia Clarke of Hartford, CT passed away peacefully with her families by her side @ Hartford hospital on April 5th 2022 she leaves behind mom & step father, 4 sisters and 3 brothers, 4 kids, 11 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins. Services @ Central Baptist Church, 457 Main St. Hartford CT 06103 on April 23 2022 at 12pm.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**PARADIS (CARD), EDITH I.**

Edith I. (Card) Paradis was born in Groton, CT, and later moved to East Hartford, CT. She passed away Sunday, April 10, after a long battle with Parkinson's with her four children by her side. She is survived by her twin brother Eddie Card, children and their spouses, Denise and John Dwyer, Linda and Jerry Leighton, Marc and Michelle Paradis, Joe Paradis and Annette Ginsberg. She has eight grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren, whom she loved and enjoyed immensely. Edith was an animal lover and would always have at least a dog or two in her home. She used to train and show her dogs in obedience trials all over New England and Canada. She was employed in the banking industry for many years and finally retired at the age of 73. The family will be having a private celebration of her life. Edith would have wanted any donations made to the CT Humane Society in lieu of flowers.

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Beloin, Maurice

Maurice Beloin, 87, of South Windsor, beloved husband of Liesse (Labbe) Beloin died peacefully on Thursday, March 31, 2022, at home in South Windsor, surrounded by his family. Born on September 14, 1934, in East Hereford, Quebec, he was the son of the late Henri and Marie Anne (Dumoulin) Beloin. Maurice grew up in Canada and immigrated to the U.S. with a friend when he was 25. He married the love of his life, Liesse on April 30, 1966, and they began their life together in Hartford and later moved to South Windsor in 1973. He worked as a carpenter for the North Atlantic States Carpenter's Union. Maurice had a love for animals and enjoyed gardening and raising chickens and rabbits. Later in life he enjoyed caring for his pet goats. He enjoyed trips back to Canada to see family and friends several times a year. Along with his wife Liesse, he is survived by his children, Sylvain Beloin and his wife Uyen Pham of North Granby, Daniel Beloin and his wife Bonni Beloin of Bethany, Cindy Smith and husband Reggie Smith of South Windsor, and Jason Beloin and wife Jessica Beloin of Higganum; his grandchildren, Andre Beloin, Ethan Beloin, Rebecca Beloin, Emma Beloin,

OBITUARIES

Ritzenhoff, Hermann J.

Hermann Josef Ritzenhoff passed away on April 8, 2022, at the age of 96. He lived in Farmington with his partner, Brigitte Ernst. In the very last period of his life, Brigitte and his caretaker Linda Afrakomah, accompanied him with much love and compassion.

Hermann was born into a large entrepreneurial family with five siblings in 1925 in Gelsenkirchen, Germany. To be exposed to the war as a 17-year-old, made him search for meaning in life, and he started to connect to the cradle of western culture: the philosophy of the old Greeks, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, integrated by St. Thomas Aquinas into the Christian faith. It became a lifelong inspiration. The German Catholic philosopher Josef Pieper, a St. Thomas Aquinas expert, became Hermann's spiritual and philosophical teacher for life. Philosophy and faith fed into his belief that the world is good in its core. Hermann's love of art and nature was a further invitation to contemplate life.

Hermann studied economics and business administration at the University of Cologne, Germany. Then, at the age of 27, he invested start-up capital from his father in the manufacturing company Seidel in Marburg, Germany. He successfully developed it to become a strong international player in the cosmetic and pharmaceutical industry, now run by his son Andreas. Eventually, he relocated from Marburg, Germany, to Waterbury, Connecticut, to start a second manufacturing company with his oldest son, Michael. Today, both Seidel companies together employ almost 900 people. As an entrepreneur with business ventures around the globe, Hermann cared deeply about people generally and took a special interest in his employees. He ensured that they were treated well and fostered their personal and professional growth.

Hermann Ritzenhoff was an open-minded and cosmopolitan man with a big heart. He was very charismatic, loved to encounter people, felt inspired by the exchange of ideas; Hermann discussed a great variety of topics while enjoying a glass of good wine. He typically introduced himself with "I'm Hermann, the German" while having a charming and mischievous smile in his eyes. Hermann enjoyed his big family. With his wife Gisela, who predeceased him, he had seven children, living now in Germany, the Czech Republic, the USA and New Zealand. He had 21 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Meeting Brigitte Ernst, he found a new love in his life, and treasured the happy years they lived together.

A Mass will be held on April 18, 2022, at 10 a.m. at Saint Patrick's Church, 110 Main Street, in Farmington, Connecticut. In lieu of flowers, we would appreciate a donation in the name of Hermann Ritzenhoff to the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, 405 Allen Avenue, Meriden, Connecticut 06451. Erickson-Hansen Funeral Home, New Britain is in charge of arrangements. Please share a memory of Hermann with the family in the online guestbook at www.ericksonhansen.com

ERICKSON-HANSEN
New Britain

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

LeBlanc, Norman Lionel

Norman Lionel LeBlanc passed away peacefully at home, in Smithsburg, MD, on April 9, 2022, with his family by his side. He was born January 14, 1938, the son of Lionel and Margaret (Saulnier) LeBlanc in St. Mary's Canada. He proudly came to the U.S. in 1959 and became a citizen. He was serving in the United States Army when he met and married the love of his life, Marie Aline Lorraine (Lavoie) LeBlanc on June 8, 1963. They would have celebrated their 59th anniversary in just a few short months. After active duty, Norman continued in the Reserves and made his career as a carpenter, living in Connecticut until retiring to South Carolina in 2000. He was a proud lifetime member of the NRA and also the VFW of Summerton, SC. Norm was the oldest of 14 children with 9 sisters and 4 brothers. He is predeceased by a brother, two sisters, and his first granddaughter, Valerie Magnan. He will be missed greatly by his family and friends, especially his daughters, Sheila Howarth and Monique Cuevas and husband Luis Cuevas, his grandchildren Gerard and Robert Magnan, Vanesa Moser, Alex Cuevas, and Jamie Cuevas and six great grandchildren. Norman loved to fish, hunt, snow mobile, woodwork, but most of all he loved to play music. He played many instruments, but his favorite was guitar. He used his talents to make so many happy listening to him play and sing country and bluegrass classics. He was happiest when performing and while living in SC he was part of a group "The Four Guys". They would visit nursing homes and play for the residents and spread joy with their music to so many. He spent the last four years living in MD with his daughter and family and continued sharing his music until he no longer could. While in MD, he was a member of St. Anne's Church in Hagerstown. There will be a Celebration of Life scheduled at a later date. The family would like to express our sincere thanks for the help and care given by Hospice of Washington County. If desired, donations can be made in Norman's name to Hospice of Washington County, <https://hospiceofwc.org> or the Alzheimer's Association, <https://www.alz.org>. Arrangements were made by J.L. Davis Funeral Home, Smithsburg, MD, and online condolences may be offered at www.jldavisfh.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Everyone leaves a legacy. Celebrate an extraordinary life by creating an enduring Life Story on Legacy.com with biography, photos, eulogies, letters and cherished mementoes.



For more information, visit the obituary section on courant.com to share memories of loved ones.

Taylor, Jean Osowiecki

Jean (Osowiecki) Taylor, loving mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, passed away suddenly on Saturday, April 2, 2022 at the age of 73. Born June 5, 1948, she was the daughter of the late Robert and Lita Scrimgeour and was predeceased by her husband, Jim Taylor. Jean raised her family and lived in Suffield for 20 years before relocating to Georgia with her husband, Jim, and then returning to Windsor, CT years later. She had a long career as a psychiatric nurse practitioner working for various companies until retiring from Med Options.

Jean was an avid supporter of the arts. She liked nothing better than spending time with her many friends at Real Art Ways in Hartford enjoying independent films or volunteering at The Playhouse in West Hartford and at the Mark Twain House and the Bushnell in Hartford. She had a deep appreciation for music and enjoyed playing the piano. She was always up for exploring funky shops and craft shows and unfailingly managed to find just the right thing.

What Jean loved most, without a doubt, was spending time with her countless friends and her family. She had an adventurous and fun-loving spirit. She traveled often with friends and family and was always game to try new things. She thoroughly enjoyed her book clubs, walking and socializing with her neighbors, and traveling far and wide with her friends. It wasn't often that she missed a card night with her sons or a "kid day" with her sons and grandchildren. She made an effort to have one-on-one time with her grandchildren, who adored her. She particularly looked forward to our annual family summer vacation, when we all spend a week crammed into one vacation house. She built this wonderful tradition, which carries on even as the grandchildren have become adults.

She is survived by her three sons and their families; Noel Osowiecki and his wife Jennifer of Windsor, CT, their son Benjamin and his wife Bethany of Pea Ridge, AK, and daughters Gabrielle of Windsor and Isabelle of Windsor Locks, son Aaron Osowiecki, his wife Anna, and their children Aidan and Lucy of Roslindale, MA, and son Justin, his wife Ela, and their children Angelika, Michael, and Julian of West Springfield, MA. She is also survived by her three stepchildren and their families; Jamie Taylor of San Diego, CA, Matt Taylor, his wife Nicole, and their children Douglas and Louisa of Belmont, MA, and Virginia Holden, her husband Todd, and their children Andrew and Jacob Smith and Wes Holden.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2022 from 10 - 11 AM at Unity of Greater Hartford Church, 919 Ellington Rd, South Windsor, CT, immediately followed by a reception at the church from 11 - 12. We encourage you to wear bright colors, (purple was a favorite), as we celebrate Jean's life and spirit. The family is asking for anyone interested to bring a written memory that they have of Jean. The hope is to put together a collection of Jean's moments that can be re-lived through the eyes of those who shared them with her.

Carmon Funeral Home has care of the arrangements. To leave on-line condolences, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com.

CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Smith, Lorraine Lea

Lorraine Lea Smith passed peacefully yet stubbornly of natural causes on March 5, 2022 in Hartford Hospital where she was born in 1934. Her daughter, Susan Ann Smith Jansson, was nearby though asleep when Lorraine passed which is exactly as Lorraine would have liked as she never was one to inconvenience her adult children

when visiting. She most likely departed precisely at midnight to get an early start on the day as she and her husband Neil Cristy Smith did when traveling.

Lorraine and Neil traveled the United States, Canada and Mexico avidly by car throughout their years together. They enjoyed taking the back roads to discover the hidden beauty of the terrain and to avoid any and all toll roads. Lorraine was an intrepid co-pilot, map reader, kept a daily log of their journeys and was expert at navigating the many excursions they took.

When at home in Connecticut, Nova Scotia, Florida, Illinois and again in Connecticut, Lorraine was always planning, planting, growing and perpetually weeding her gardens. While living in Rocky Hill and raising a family Lorraine was at the forefront of sustainable living, growing and preserving the vegetables and fruits of the garden, baking the best bread and most sought after rolls at family gatherings. She kept her family clothed and mended with her sewing skills and was a talented painter of landscape and family moments.

Lorraine kept a daily diary for well over sixty years and extensively researched and recorded family history from both her own family and her husband's family. She was passionate about tracing both family's origins. Lorraine instilled a love of self-sufficiency in her children Richard Scott Smith and Susan Ann Smith Jansson and a determined work ethic to get the job done. She shared her skills in the garden and in the home with both children and though they may not have appreciated those lessons at the time, she did a fine job raising them both.

Lorraine is preceded in death and leaves behind friends and family who counted her as a true and honest friend throughout the decades of her life. She is preceded in death by her husband Neil Cristy Smith, her brothers Terry Smith and John Smith and her sister Darlene Smith Druin. She leaves behind her sister Kay Smith Snow and brother Kenneth Smith as well as her children Richard Scott Smith, his wife Renee St Pierre Smith and Susan Ann Smith Jansson and her husband Paul Jansson. She was blessed with two grandchildren Spencer Oliver Smith and Anneka Kristine Jansson whom she was able to spend years with each having lived first in Illinois with Anneka and in Connecticut with Spencer. Both will miss her dearly.

A celebration of Lorraine's life will be held on May 7, 2022 at Dave and Marilyn Meigs home in Berlin, CT. We invite all to join us. Please contact Richard or Susan for details.

Lorraine Lea Smith planted her final vegetable garden in her eighty seventh spring. The family encourages all to celebrate her life by planting something beautiful. Among her favorites were geraniums, marigolds, violets and lilac.

Please share online expressions of sympathy, memories or photo tributes at www.rosehillfuneralhomes.com

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McNulty, Terrence

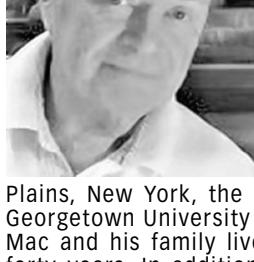
Terrence F. McNulty Jr., loving husband, father, grandfather, and brother, passed away peacefully on April 10th, 2022. He was 85. Terry was born on August 18th, 1936, in Hartford, Connecticut to the late Dr. Terence and Isabelle (Preston) McNulty. He was raised in Hartford with his brother Thomas and was a survivor of the Hartford

Circus Fire of 1944. Terry graduated from Hartford Public High School in 1954 and earned his Bachelor's degree from St. Anselm College in 1958. He later earned a Master's in Education from the University of Hartford. He also served as a member of the US Army Reserves. In a career that spanned three decades, Terry worked first for the Hartford Public Schools and then for the East Hartford Public Schools, leading efforts to support the enrollment and graduation of at risk students. On June 28th, 1973, he married Judith (Kaiser) McNulty. Together they moved to West Hartford where they raised a daughter and a son. They were married for 47 years, until Judith's passing in July 2020. Terry was an avid reader who studied Connecticut history, especially the history of the city of Hartford. Terry was always eager to reminisce about the Hartford of his youth and tell stories about his childhood and the neighborhoods he loved. He also loved sports, especially baseball. A historian at heart, Terry spent years documenting his family's history, developing a detailed genealogy of the McNulty and Preston families that traced their journeys to the United States. Terry was defined by his patience. Those who loved him will also remember him for his humility and kindness.

Terry was preceded in death by his father Terence, his mother Isabelle, and his wife Judith. He is survived by his daughter Kathryn McNulty-Cheon and her husband John Cheon of South Windsor, his son Terence P. McNulty and his wife Connie McNulty of West Hartford, and his grandchildren Laurel and Terence L. McNulty of West Hartford. He is also survived by his brother Thomas McNulty and sister-in-law Betty Ann McNulty of Windsor, his sister-in-law Donna Kaiser of Meriden, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Friends may call at Ahern Funeral Home, 180 Farmington Avenue, Hartford on Monday, April 18th from 4:00-6:00 PM. The Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated Tuesday, April 19th at 10:00 AM in the Church of St. Timothy, 1116 North Main Street, West Hartford, (all are kindly asked to meet directly at Church), followed by burial in the family plot at Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. To send online condolences to the family, please visit www.ahernfuneralhome.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Buckley, Francis McKeon

Francis McKeon (Mac) Buckley, beloved husband for 56 years of Donna Ricciuti Buckley died on April 11, 2022 surrounded by his devoted family. Born November 22, 1941, in New Haven, CT, he was the son of the late Mr. Christopher H. Buckley and Margaret Elaine McKeon Buckley. He was a graduate of Archbishop Stepinac High School in White

Plains, New York, the College of the Holy Cross, and Georgetown University Law Center.

Mac and his family lived in Marlborough, CT for over forty years. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his five daughters: Marcia Buckley (Mark Thompson) of Brookeville, Maryland, Mary Buckley-Harmon (Steven Harmon) of Ipswich, MA, Moira Buckley (Jeff Kestenband) of Glastonbury, CT, Michelle Buckley (Christopher Dixon) of Dayton, Maine, and Monica Boyce (Brandon) of Lemoore, CA. Mac also leaves eleven grandchildren: Mark, Brigid, Leah, Sophie, Lucy, Cameron, Daniel, Claire, Caroline, Benjamin, and Evelyn; a sister, Lucy Buckley Maloney-Walsh (Robert Walsh), a brother, Christopher H. Buckley (Marguerite), brother-in-law, Edward Ricciuti (Mercedes), and numerous beloved nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother Mark Gerard Buckley.

Mac began his legal career in 1967 as a law clerk to the Honorable John P. Cotter, Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court. He later joined the Stamford office of Cummings and Lockwood as a litigation associate. In 1969 he became an Assistant United States Attorney until 1972 when he was appointed to serve as an Assistant Federal Defender for the District of Connecticut. Later that year, he was appointed as a special federal attorney heading the regional office of a national drug enforcement program, the Office of Drug Abuse Law Enforcement (ODALE). Mac entered private practice in 1974 with his law partner and friend, Hubert J. Santos, forming Buckley and Santos in Hartford. Later, he practiced law with his daughter, Moira Buckley.

Mac had many interests outside of the practice of law, one being politics. In 1974 he was the Republican candidate for the First District Congressional seat, running against and losing to incumbent William R. Cotter. From 1975 to 1977 he served on the Newington Town Council.

Mac was passionate about boxing and coaching young people. He began boxing at an early age, continued throughout college, and started coaching boxers while he was in law school. In the early 1970s, first in conjunction with the Police Athletic League and then independently, Mac ran a Hartford boxing gym in Charter Oak Terrace, which became the Nelson-Anderson Memorial Boxing Club. He later joined his friend Johnny Duke to train fighters in the Bellevue Square Boys Club. Over the years, he trained some of Hartford's best amateur and professional fighters. In 2004 he and his dear friend, Troy Wortham, a former professional boxer, founded Championship Rounds Boxing and Books, an after-school boxing program in Hartford. In 2010 Mac was inducted into the Connecticut Boxing Hall of Fame. In addition to training boxers, Mac helped establish the Connecticut Rising Stars, an AAU basketball team out of the New Britain Boys and Girls Club. He was fiercely dedicated to helping and influencing the future of those he coached and became a father figure to many young men.

Above all, Mac was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather who valued time with his family. Mac, Donna, and their five daughters shared the work on their Black Angus cattle farm and enjoyed showing the animals at local fairs. He faithfully attended his daughters' sporting events and loved fishing, gardening, and playing tennis with his grandchildren.

The Buckley family would like to thank the staff at Middlesex and Hartford Hospital and Hartford Healthcare Hospice, who provided compassionate care to him and his family.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, April 19, at 11:00 a.m. at Ss. Isidore and Maria Parish at St. Paul Church, 2577 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT. Those planning to attend are asked to meet directly at the church. Burial will immediately follow at Holy Cross Cemetery, 1318 Hebron Ave, Glastonbury. Friends may call at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Avenue, Glastonbury on Monday, April 18, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to National Alliance for Mental Health (NAMI) Connecticut, 1030 New Britain Avenue, Suite 201, West Hartford, CT 06110; Charter Oak Boxing Academy (COBA) 81 Pope Park Hwy, Hartford, CT 06106; or Alzheimer's Association at alz.org/ct. For online condolences please visit www.mulryanfh.com.

MULRYAN

FUNERAL HOME

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Share memories, express condolences, and celebrate life in the obituary section on courant.com.

OBITUARIES

Miner, Jr., Frank

Frank W. Miner Jr. passed away on March 30, 2022 at the age of 95, at his home in Elim Park. He was the devoted husband of the late Janice (Damery) Miner for over 69 years until her passing in 2018. Frank was born June 11, 1926 in Port Chester, New York, son of the late Frank W. Miner and Kaireen (MacKay) Miner. He was educated in the Port Chester public schools and was the valedictorian of the class of 1943. He received a Bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from The Cooper Union in 1947 and earned an MBA from New York University in 1954. Frank was employed by American Cyanamid for 41 years in various technical, marketing, and management positions, retiring in 1986 as president of CYRO industries, a joint venture subsidiary of Cyanamid in partnership with Rohm GmbH, a German firm. Upon his retirement, Frank became involved in a series of charitable, service, and local political activities. He served in public roles for over 20 years on the Cheshire Board of Education, the Public Building Commission, and the Planning and Zoning Commission. He was an active member of the Cheshire Democratic Town Committee. He was a longtime Friend of the Cheshire Library and a member of the Exchange Club. He worked as a volunteer on the 1987-1990 capital campaign for The Cooper Union and served as an executive recruiter for the International Executive Service Corps for eight years. Frank was a communicant of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Cheshire until his death. He served that congregation as a member of the vestry and as treasurer. As part of the Thresholds program, Frank counseled on life skills at the Cheshire prison. During his residence at Elim Park, Frank served two years as head of its resident council. He was a 50-year member of the Farms Country Club in Wallingford and served on its Board of Directors for two years. He had many other interests. Frank was an active gardener and enjoyed golf and tennis and was an avid Bridge player. He was a music lover, a student of history, and had many wonderful trips throughout the world with Janice. He liked to keep busy. He enjoyed, and was lucky in, life. Frank is the beloved father of Constance Miner (Greg Lalley) of Washington DC, Judith Miner of Kensington, MD, and Rebecca Wentworth (Greg Wentworth) of Somers, CT. He also leaves his cherished grandchildren Andrew Lalley (Amy Macneil) and Emma Lalley (Ryan Andrews). He was predeceased by a half-brother, Travis, of Pasadena, CA and a brother, John, of Santa Monica, California. His family would like to extend their sincerest gratitude to Frank's caregivers Kofi and Jonathan as well as to the staff of Connecticut Hospice for all the love and compassion they showed him during his final days. Frank's funeral service will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 10:30AM in St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 59 Main Street, Cheshire, CT 06410. Burial will follow in Cheshire Hillside Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Cheshire Community Food Pantry, 175 Sandbank Road, Cheshire, CT 06410 or to a charity of your choice. The Alderson-Ford Funeral Home of Cheshire is assisting with the arrangements. For online condolences or to share a photo or story, please visit www.fordfh.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Willet, Walter Douglas

After battling cancer for several years, W. Douglas Willett passed away peacefully while surrounded by family on Sunday, April 10, 2022 in Cape Coral, FL. Doug was born Dec 21, 1943 in Hartford to parents Emil and Erva Willett. He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Diane Willett; his three sons: Wes and his wife Stacy, Jamie, and Jonathan and his wife Emma; grandchildren: Marleena, Shealah, Draedon, Spencer, Ada and Talia, plus five who joined along the way: Raquel, Thomas, Kacie, Lucas, Nicole and great-granddaughters: Teagan, Finley and Skye. He is also survived by his brother, Greg Willett with partner Jen Prieto; sisters: Erva and Denise with husband Victor Nejfelt. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother, William and sisters, Virginia and Michelle.

Born into humble circumstances in East Hartford, Doug grew up in Mayberry Village and on Tiffany Rd. before it was paved. He remembered his childhood as a happy one full of his boisterous, loving family and his favorite pastimes of reading and playing baseball. He attended East Hartford High School, where he played junior varsity basketball and baseball, served as the sports editor of the school paper and was elected President of his junior class, foreshadowing his lifelong love of sports, language and politics. After high school, he attended the University of Connecticut, where he received a BA in English. After completing a teaching credential at Central Connecticut State College, by his mid-twenties he became a beloved English teacher at East Hartford High School. During his tenure at EHHS he was active in the teacher's union, Department Chair of English, coach of the girls' softball team and went on to serve for five years as the school Principal. At age 40, thinking he would get a little business experience before seeking a Superintendent position, he went to work for Travelers Insurance in Hartford. Eighteen years later, he had climbed the corporate ladder to become Sr. Vice President of Human Resources. Doug retired at age 58 and spent his remaining years traveling the world with Diane, spending time with family and giving back to others.

Doug's love of competition was reflected on the golf course, in the stands at many a game of his beloved UCONN Huskies, and in his many years on the pitching mound for East Hartford Dovalettes and then Reed's Construction, whom he helped lead to the Softball National Championships several times while earning an induction into the Connecticut Softball Hall of Fame. Although he built a lot for himself and his family, he always gave a lot back to the communities and institutions that shaped him, from being accused by the local paper as the shadowy advisor behind his best friend Bob McNulty's two terms as East Hartford's Mayor, to his funding scholarships and generous donations to his alma mater UCONN, serving on the board of the Hillstead Museum to welcoming a French exchange student into the family, Doug believed part of a well lived life was service to others.

Doug was very active with the East Hartford Rotary Club. When he served as Club President, he was instrumental in allowing women to become members for the first time. He was a 6-time recipient of Rotary's highest honor, the Paul Harris award. Doug co-wrote and edited the club newsletter for many years. He served as chair for numerous committees, was club photographer, and devoted many hours to volunteer activities.

World traveler, photographer, father, husband, brother and grandfather, he meant a lot to a lot of people and will be sorely missed.

The family will receive relatives and friends on Wednesday, April 20 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. at the D'Esopo-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to East Hartford Rotary Club Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 380035, East Hartford, CT 06138-0035. To share a memory of Doug with his family, please visit www.desopoeh.com.



D'Esopo
Funeral Chapel

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Teed, David



David M. Teed, devoted father and distinguished Assistant Attorney General, passed away Wednesday March 30, 2022, after a tough battle with Alzheimer's Dementia/Vascular Dementia. He was 67 years old.

A lifelong believer in the law as a force for social progress, David M. Teed was born in Willimantic, Connecticut on December 21, 1954, to Stanley M. Teed and Carole-Jean Slater. His commitment to justice and opposition to discrimination in any form started at young age, being the oldest child of four, he always fulfilled his duties to protect his siblings and extended family at every turn. He loved his family deeply.

His desire to achieve social justice within the legal and political system prompted his decision to pursue a legal career and he graduated from the University of Connecticut Law School in 1979. He was an intern at the Connecticut Attorney General's office during law school and ultimately landed a job there upon graduation. As an Assistant Attorney General, he provided counsel for the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. Among his signal achievements in this position was his highly effective use of the "disparate impact" doctrine which he used in litigation against implicit forms of discrimination. David used disparate impact claims to end subtle, less direct forms of discrimination and was tireless in his determination to make the legal system work for all Connecticut residents. His commitment to civil rights was given special recognition by the Commission on Human Rights in 2005, and he received the highest possible rating in both legal ability and ethical standards from Martindale-Hubbell's AV Preeminent Peer Review in 2014. David retired from the Attorney General's office in 2015.

David volunteered to serve on the Board of Trustees of Woodstock Academy in 1992 and became treasurer in 2005. He was dedicated to providing students with diverse opportunities through a rigorous curriculum and to cultivate the necessary skills to become lifelong learners to all the students who attended the Academy. He cared deeply about education and worked to safeguard the Academy's funding while upholding the educational mission of the school. He retired from his volunteer work at Woodstock Academy in 2021.

On the days he wasn't fighting for justice or helping to cultivate a positive and diverse learning opportunity for his community, David was putting around in his pontoon boat or canoe and fishing on Crystal Pond, a lake he grew up on and where he finally bought a home in 2012. David loved sharing his love of the lake with his children and grandchildren, giving them a ride on his pontoon boat or canoe any chance he could. He was at his happiest when pointing out all the places he played as a child or vacationed with his parents on the lake. His children have countless boating stories from their adventures with him that they will always cherish, even if they sometimes questioned where he got his boating license! He was also an avid, lifelong Red Sox fan, and never missed watching a game. David loved animals, especially his dogs Shamrock and BeeBee.

David was also an incredibly proud father to three children, Jennifer Amy Duncan-Bendix, Michael Slater Teed, and Kathryn Ann Teed. David was an extremely proud grandfather and he doted on his grandkids Jaden Blaze Gilmore, Riley James Duncan-Bendix, Aubrey Theresa Duncan-Bendix, and Lincoln Slater Person. In addition to his children and grandchildren, David is mourned by his two surviving siblings Paul E. Teed of Midland, Michigan and Cynthia Gwiazda of Wallingford. His sister Lynne Cap passed away in 2014. Friends described David as a devoted father, great mentor, great friend, brilliant, kind, generous and an honorable man. He will be missed by all who knew him.

A memorial service will be held at the Woodstock Congregational Church 543 Rt. 169 Woodstock on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at 1pm. In lieu of flowers, anyone who wishes to honor David M. Teed is requested to make a contribution to his grandchildren's college fund. Which can be made out to Lincoln S. Person, or Kathryn A. Teed. tillinghastfh.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
CHRISTOPHER B. ROCA



1/20/1980 - 4/14/2019

Remembering you is easy, we do it every day. Missing you is a heartache that never goes away. Love, The Roca Family

In Loving Memory Of
ALLAN SCHAEFER



07/02/1930 - 04/14/1997

Twenty-Five years have now past since you left us. Our memories of you continue to give us joy, hope and strength. We will forever treasure the time we spent with you. We love you always.

Bernice, Janet and Ruthie.



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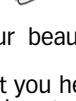
IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
RACHEL BEAUDIN



04/14/1935-09/14/2021



In loving memory of our beautiful, fiesty Angel, Rachel (mom).

It's not the same without you here. You are always on our minds and forever in our hearts. We miss and love you every day.

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
THOMAS J 'TOMMY' CAVANAUGH IV

04/14/1967-07/03/2015

Happy Birthday in Heaven to our son Tommy. You would have been 55 years old today. We miss you everyday since you left us 7 years ago. Love you Mom and Dad
Forever48

In Loving Memory Of
ELIZABETH "BETH" CROASDALE



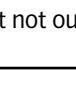
04/14/2019

Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure.
Love, Barbara, Christine, Dan, Shannon, and Teagan

In Loving Memory Of
ELIZABETH CROASDALE



08/13/1961-04/14/2019



Gone from our sights, but not our memories
With Love Lenny

Hartford Courant

CONNECTICUT

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Stefanowski: Evaluate transgender athlete policy

Republican gubernatorial candidate says he would review process that led to girls sports rule

By Mark Pazniokas
CT Mirror

Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob Stefanowski declined Tuesday to embrace or reject Connecticut's policy of allowing transgender athletes to compete in girls sports, an issue unexpectedly introduced by a new super PAC supporting him.

In a text message, Stefanowski questioned the process and analysis behind the policy without proposing a reversal — a move the Trump administration futilely demanded

of Gov. Ned Lamont in 2020 and that the super PAC, Parents Against Stupid Stuff, is promising to promote in 2022.

"Connecticut law prohibits discrimination," Stefanowski said. "It's incumbent upon the high school athletic conferences to seek out the voices of young female athletes, coaches and parents to come up with policies that ensure a level playing field and protect girls sports."

Stefanowski addressed the process, not



a policy.

"To date, I don't believe adequate consideration has been given to the impact this has on women's sports across the board," he said. "This goes beyond fairness — it goes to safety. This needs to be evaluated and we need policies that work for everyone."

At a news conference earlier, Lamont was asked if his position was unchanged from September 2020, when he defied the Trump administration and

defended the transgender participation policy of CIAC, the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference.

"I think so," Lamont said.

The first-term Democratic governor was far stronger on his view of the super PAC, whose organizer is a major financial backer of national groups opposed to abortion and gay marriage, "playing politics" with transgender teens who wish to compete in sports.

"When it comes to transgender, I think

Turn to Transgender, Page 2



Minela Ahmetovic, vaccine coordinator at Charter Oak Health Center, administers a booster shot to Lissette Cumba of Hartford on Tuesday at the center in Hartford. Charter Oak is administering vaccines and boosters, seven days a week. **JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Distribution of second booster shots 'picking up'

By Alex Putterman | Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — In a small gray trailer plopped in a parking lot alongside I-91 in Hartford, Samuel Wright and Bonnie Allen waited for COVID-19 vaccine-seekers to arrive.

It was late Tuesday afternoon, not long before the Hartford HealthCare vaccine clinic Wright and Allen run was set to close, and the site had seen about 30 patients — an increase from previous days but nothing like the crush of patients vaccinators grew used to in earlier stages of the pandemic.

"People are coming in," said Allen, a registered nurse. "Not like that first booster, of course, when we had huge amounts of people, but they are starting to pick up in numbers."

Soon, a car rolled up and 56-year-old Hartford resident Randy Madore stepped out. Madore, like millions of other Americans, recently became eligible for a second booster shot, and he was anxious to receive it.

"I'm starting to do more things socially, so I felt I wanted to be

better protected," Madore said, citing the new BA.2 subvariant.

Then Madore's car rolled away, and the site was empty again.

Since federal regulators approved second booster doses for all Americans 50 and older in late March, as well as those who are immunocompromised, Connecticut providers have seen only a trickle of vaccine seekers.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not list second booster shot data on its website, and a spokesperson for the Connecticut Department of Public Health said the state doesn't have that data either. But what's clear is that of nearly 900,000 Connecticut residents 50 and older who have already had one booster, only a small fraction have sought another shot.

"People don't have that sense of urgency they had last year," said Eric Arlia, Hartford HealthCare's director of pharmacy. "That fear that I've got to be first in line, I think that's gone, which is probably a good thing for all of us."

Turn to Boosters, Page 2

Car taxes likely to decrease in many towns this summer

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Connecticut drivers who have been complaining about their car taxes for decades are likely to finally find relief this summer, lawmakers said Wednesday.

Democratic budget negotiators are close to an agreement with Gov. Ned Lamont on how to cut the taxes, House Speaker Matt Ritter of Hartford said.

"It sounds like they may have found a compromise on the car tax to go with the appropriations budget, which will provide

a lot of relief for people but that we can afford," Ritter told reporters in a Zoom call.

Both Lamont and legislators have called for cutting the tax, but three different plans have been offered at the state Capitol. Lamont wanted to provide \$160 million in relief for 1.7 million cars and trucks that would help drivers in 103 of the state's 169 cities and towns. The relief would go to all towns with a tax rate above 29 mills.

But lawmakers are pushing for the appropriations committee's plans of \$100 million in relief to towns with mill rates of 32.46 and above. Towns generally have not set

their mill rates yet for the new fiscal year that starts in July, so the precise number of towns that would be impacted remains unclear.

When asked by the Courant about Ritter's comments, Lamont agreed that the tax cut will happen — but said the details are not finalized.

"I want to go along with my version, which provides a property tax cut for more towns," Lamont said after an outdoor union rally in Bushnell Park in Hartford. "The

Turn to Taxes, Page 2

Yale New Haven Health System and Hartford HealthCare received final state approval to bring proton beam therapy — "a highly advanced form of radiation treatment for cancer" — to Connecticut, according to the health systems.

"The new Connecticut Proton Therapy Center will use highly targeted radiological proton therapy rather than X-rays to treat cancer and is currently only available at a handful of facilities in the Northeast outside of Connecticut," the two systems said in a statement.

The 25,000-square-foot center at 932 Northrop Road in Wallingford will be the first in Connecticut, the statement said.

Yale New Haven Health CEO Chris-

Turn to Proton, Page 2

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Police seize over 100 guns from New Britain suspect

State troopers also confiscate bombs, thousands of rounds of ammunition

By Christine Dempsey

Hartford Courant

State police on Tuesday arrested a New Britain man who they say was trafficking illegal assault weapons and making untraceable ghost guns.

Steven Gerent-Mastrianni, 39, had 125 guns, gun parts that would allow him to make firearms fully automatic and a 3D printer to make guns that can't be traced, as well as three homemade bombs on his Hillhurst Avenue property and in his cars, police say.

Troopers seized fully and semi-automatic firearms, shotguns and pistols. They also confiscated 30,000-40,000 rounds of ammunition, they say. Fully automatic weapons are only legal in Connecticut if they had been registered on or before Jan. 1, 2014, and those who make their own guns with a kit or a printer must obtain a serial number and affix it to the gun.

The Connecticut State Police Bomb Squad disposed of the explosive devices.

Gerent-Mastrianni — a pistol permit holder — was charged with nine counts each of sale of an assault weapon, weapon in a motor vehicle, illegal transfer of a long gun and illegal transfer of a manufactured firearm without a serial number, police say.

He also was charged with 19 counts of sale of large-capacity magazines and one count each of possession of an assault weapon and possession of a machine gun. He was in custody on \$500,000 bail, police say.

A half-dozen divisions of the state police worked with New Britain police, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms on the investigation.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.



These are some of the guns seized during a multi-agency gun trafficking arrest Tuesday in New Britain, state police say.

CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE



Yale New Haven Hospital, which will partner with Hartford HealthCare on a proton beam therapy facility in Wallingford. COURANT FILE PHOTO

Proton

from Page 1

topher O'Connor said YNHH is "is proud and excited to bring this highly innovative technology to patients in Connecticut and beyond."

"Our unprecedented collaboration with HHC will allow us to care for patients with cancer in a new and effective way by bringing a life-changing therapy to our state," he said in the statement. "We are grateful that the state recognized the value of this technology to residents of Connecticut and the importance of this unique collaboration."

Hartford HealthCare President and Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey A. Flaks said the center brings "a historic moment for cancer care in Connecticut."

"We are thankful for the state's support of this innovative partnership with Yale New Haven Health and Proton International. Together, we are transforming health care," Flaks said in the statement. "This newly established partnership will not only provide our patients and our communities access to proton therapy — one of the most clinically advanced radiation treatments in the world, but it will make Connecticut a 'world-class' destination hub when it comes to state-of-the-art cancer care."

He said "this partnership that will undoubtedly be a game-changer in the lives of cancer patients."

According to the health systems, proton therapy is a type of radiation therapy "that uses a high energy beam of protons to irradiate cancer." The dose

is more finely controlled and therefore "there is less entry, exit, and scattered radiation so that physicians can safely deliver higher doses of radiation to tumors with fewer side effects."

"Proton International is dedicated to creating access for patients to this important technology," said Chris Chandler, CEO of Proton International, the project manager and operator for the proposed proton facility, also in the statement. "Our ability to work with Yale New Haven Health and Hartford HealthCare assures the citizens of Connecticut will have access to a very high-quality cancer treatment program closer to home."

The Wallingford is projected to open in 2025, according to the two health systems.

Taxes

from Page 1

"The approps version sort of followed our lead and gets pretty close. We're going to get a car-tax cut. Look, I like our version, which includes a lot more towns and provides a more significant tax cut for people. Now, you sit down and negotiate around the table."

Ritter stressed that the final deal still must be reached on the complicated \$24.2 billion proposed budget that requires compromise in many areas. Closed-door negotiations started Tuesday with high-level members of Lamont's staff.

"On that one issue, they were willing to come to the appropriations committee [recommendation] and meet them there," Ritter said. "It could be 32.46. Who knows? But the point is I think they were willing to move on that issue. Yes."

The impact, Ritter said, would begin this summer when drivers receive their car-tax bills.

"You're going to see in Hartford, for example, essentially a 12-mill-rate reduction from what you paid in January to what you paid in July," Ritter said.

"That is an absolute, clear signal of a tax cut for folks. I think it will be very helpful. Again, it's really inherently unfair that a Toyota in East Hartford costs more than a Toyota in a lower-mill-rate town."

Besides Hartford and

East Hartford, communities that would receive assistance include West Hartford, Waterbury, Bridgeport, New Haven and others.

The tax cut would not apply to any communities with low mill rates, such as wealthy communities like Greenwich, New Canaan, Darien, Westport and Essex.

Municipalities would be reimbursed by the state for their lost tax revenues, but some lawmakers and local officials are highly skeptical that the reimbursements would be made when the state faces tough fiscal times in the future.

The 110-member Council of Small Towns, which represents towns with populations of less than 35,000, testified against the idea.

"COST is concerned that this reimbursement will be phased out over time or swept completely when the state faces challenging budget years," the group said in written testimony. "Without a fail-safe mechanism for fully reimbursing municipalities for lost property tax revenues, capping car taxes will simply shift an even greater burden onto already overburdened homeowners and small businesses."

The group added, "While we understand the frustration that many have regarding the car tax, prior efforts to reduce the car tax have fallen short. The Municipal Revenue Sharing Account, which was created to offset lost revenues due to the car tax cap, was not fully

funded. As a result, the cap was increased from 39 mills to 45 mills. Although this may have provided nominal relief to car owners in certain municipalities, this relief was largely offset by increases in property taxes on homes and businesses and associated increases in the cost of goods and services, including rents."

The cap currently remains at 45 mills — meaning only communities above that level receive relief.

The tax cut would not apply to trucks or commercial vehicles, legislators said.

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, an influential lobbying group at the Capitol, favors the tax-cut plan but still has concerns about being reimbursed.

"If the proposed reimbursement is not maintained in future years, then municipalities will be required to offset the loss in motor vehicle tax revenue by shifting the burden to residential and commercial taxpayers," CCM said. "This shift will increase the cost of housing and impede economic growth that is needed as the state looks to rebound from the COVID pandemic. Furthermore, reducing the motor vehicle tax does not reduce the costs for towns and cities to provide essential and mandated services such as but not limited to education, public safety and infrastructure maintenance."

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@courant.com.

Housing

from Page 1

lots — five new lots. The rest of the neighbors adversely affected will have properties now bounded by at least two new lots," a former schools superintendent who has lived with his wife on Churchill for more than 30 years.

But after reviewing wetlands, engineering and fire department reviews, commissioners approved the proposal.

The smallest properties at Winchester Acres will have a half acre, and lots will range upward to as large as 1.3 acres. All houses will have at least two-car garages, and the most expensive ones will have three.

All of the homes will be two-story, and there will be a mix of three- and four-bedroom units.

"They'll start anywhere from 2,600 square feet to up to 3,700 square feet," Lovley said.

The most expensive ones will have three and a half bathrooms, a two-story foyer, formal dining room, and two-story great room with fireplace. The master bedrooms in those homes will measure 23 by 15 and feature a fireplace, secluded sitting area and separate walk-in closets.

Southington has little luxury housing, and Lovley said that's part of why he expects it to sell quickly.

"The pricing is right on par with the market in that town," he said.

Boosters

from Page 1

Arlia said Hartford HealthCare has delivered about 3,000 booster doses since March 29, the vast majority of which have been second boosters. About 75% of appointment slots have been filled, Arlia said.

This, of course, stands in contrast to the initial vaccine rollout last year, when hundreds of thousands of residents flocked simultaneously to get their shots, leaving lines long and appointments scarce. This time around, Arlia said, he anticipates a more "orderly" booster shot process.

Rashad Collins, chief operating officer of Charter Oak Health Center, said demand remained relatively modest. A good day for Charter Oak, where vaccine clinics are open seven days a week, might mean 30 or 40 patients.

"It hasn't been too big of a bump so far," Collins said. "People are still getting more educated on the eligibility side of it."

Leslie Gianelli, a spokesperson for Community Health Center, Inc., said CHC has seen "steep levels of interest among patients" and was taking proactive steps to encourage booster shots, such as asking patients at unrelated appointments if they'd like a booster dose.

A spokesperson for CVS said she could not share how many second booster



A man walks past a sign for vaccines Tuesday at Charter Oak Health Center in Hartford. Charter Oak is administering vaccines and boosters, seven days a week. JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

doses the pharmacy chain had administered so far, but as of Tuesday, numerous vaccine appointments in the Hartford area were available through the store's website.

Connecticut ranks as one of America's most vaccinated states, both in terms of initial vaccinations as well as first booster doses. As of Tuesday, 51.3% of fully vaccinated state residents had received a booster.

Experts say the second booster is particularly important for elderly people and those with serious underlying conditions but that everyone 50 and older can benefit from

another shot.

"It's an additional thing you can do to protect yourself and have an extra layer of comfort that you are as protected as you can be from adverse effects of COVID-19," Dr. Manisha Juthani, the state's public health commissioner, said recently.

Arlia, who is 51, said he got his second booster dose last week.

"I just don't see a downside, honestly," Arlia said, "and I want to be a role model."

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

Transgender

from Page 1

CIAC is probably getting it right," Lamont said. "If I had my druthers, keep the federal government out, keep the politicians. I think families and schools and the CIAC are going to be able to work through this and without politicizing it and harming a lot of young people."

The new super PAC, Parents Against Stupid Stuff, is organized by Sean Fiebler, a hedge fund manager from Stamford.

He told CT Mirror on Monday the group will make more than \$1 million in independent expenditures opposing Lamont over the issues of transgender athletes, the influence of critical race theory on K-12 curriculum and the appropriateness of how sex and gender identity are taught.

The PAC has yet to advertise or say precisely what it is demanding of Lamont, Stefanowski or other candidates. During the national debate during the Obama administration over the core curriculum for K-12 schools, Fiebler opposed it as an intrusion in local education.

Lamont said local school boards should set policies for the curriculum issues that Fiebler's new PAC highlights.

"Our schools have school boards. Our parents are very involved. Listen

to the parents. Listen to the teachers. I think our teachers are really good. They know how to manage this. They know their kids, they know their parents, they know their schools," Lamont said. "I think people ought to take a breath."

Lamont is currently targeted by two independent-expenditure groups, each promising to spend at least \$1 million in support of Stefanowski. Unlike the candidates' campaigns, which cannot accept contributions of more than \$3,500, there is no limit on the super PACs as long as they are independent of the candidates.

CT Truth PAC has raised \$1 million from just two donors, both Connecticut businessmen.

"I worry about all this outside money poured into the state," said Lamont, who questioned whether the independent-expenditure groups really are independent. "I'm not sure they reflect Connecticut values or where we're coming from, but I think I'll reserve judgment and see how it plays out."

Liz Kurantowicz, the adviser to the Stefanowski campaign, offered no comment on the role of the super PACs.

The Stefanowski campaign is not responsible for the expenditures of outside groups and is legally prohibited from any coordination," she said.

CONNECTICUT

Morrow interim West Hartford schools leader

By Seamus McAvoy

Hartford Courant

Outgoing superintendent of West Hartford Public Schools Tom Moore will be replaced on an interim basis by Andrew Morrow, the district's assistant superintendent for administration, the West Hartford school board announced.

Morrow will begin as interim superintendent on July 1 and continue through June 30, 2023, or until a permanent superintendent is selected.

"I'm honored to be asked to serve as the interim superintendent, and I appreciate the trust and opportunity to continue the work that we're doing," Morrow said. "I think we've got a good team in place, and I'm happy to be able to help the [school] board and the district during this time and during their process."

Moore, who began his career at West Hartford schools in 1996, has led the district since 2014. He was recognized as the state's 2021 Superintendent of the Year by the

Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents.

In late February, Moore announced he will leave the district at the end of the school year to oversee two large high schools in suburban Chicago.

The West Hartford Board of Education voted unanimously to Morrow



appoint Morrow interim superintendent at a school board meeting last week.

Morrow came to West Hartford first as a principal at Bristow Middle School in 2009. Both of his children attended West Hartford schools from elementary through graduation, he said.

Morrow previously worked as a principal and teacher in upstate New York and Arizona.

West Hartford schools educate about 9,500 students, and the school board just approved a \$181,187,018 budget for the 2022-2023 school year.

Morrow said he'll maintain the district's focus on leveraging federal relief dollars to

address achievement gaps, learning loss and mental health needs created or exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic.

"It's really a huge effort," Morrow said. "I think it'll be a huge effort continuing next year, and will really take multiple years to unwind and address the impact of the pandemic on education. This isn't going to be a quick fix for us, or, frankly, for anyone."

The school board also voted to appoint a personnel search committee, composed of board members, to identify and interview candidates for the permanent position.

"This is a lot of work, to hire a superintendent," Thomas-Farquharson said during the meeting. "It's work that requires due diligence, requires time, it requires the efforts of many who are able to attend to that adequately."

Thomas-Farquharson said the selection committee will host community sessions to solicit public feedback, and wants to ensure a diverse pool of candidates.

The West Hartford school board will later select a consulting firm to facilitate the search, she said. Morrow said he will not apply for the position of permanent superintendent.

Having worked in the administration with Moore since 2014, Morrow said he has the privilege of calling the outgoing superintendent a friend. All the lessons Moore has passed on can't be summed up in a brief phone call, Morrow said.

But what Morrow admires most about, he said, is the idea that the district does the right thing for students regardless of difficulty or criticism.

"I think that's an important message that we continue to send, that parents expect, and that's really why people are in our school system," Morrow said. "I'd like to think we can continue that trust with them, and continue to do those right things and make those hard choices sometimes."

Seamus McAvoy may be reached at smcavoy@courant.com.

Museum to receive 70 major artworks

From Cassatt to Picasso, Greenwich site will get its largest gift in history

By Susan Dunne

Hartford Courant

Bruce Museum in Greenwich has been promised an anonymous gift of 70 artworks by major artists such as Cassatt, Hassam, Homer, Hopper, Wyeth and Picasso, the museum announced Wednesday.

The paintings, sculptures, watercolors, drawings, prints and photographs, from an anonymous Greenwich couple, will be the largest gift of art in the museum's 112-year history, according to a news release from Suzanne Lio, the museum's managing director and chief operating officer.

The museum's chairman of the board of directors called the gift a game-changer for the museum.

"I am sincerely humbled by the generosity, the foresight and altruism of this local family," James B. Lockhart III said.

The gift comes in the midst of a \$60 million renovation project, which will double the size of the museum, adding exhibition, education, and community spaces, including a restaurant and auditorium.

The anonymous donors also are donating money to that campaign.

"These works will further define the New Bruce as a museum that explores global stories of modern and contemporary art," said Robert Wolterstorff, executive director and CEO of the museum.

Among the artworks donated are:

■ Winslow Homer's watercolors "Boy on Dock" (1873) and "Fishergirls Coiling Tackle" (1881).

■ Andrew Wyeth's watercolor "Cape May" (1992); his Helga series tempera painting "Sheepskin" (1973); another Wyeth tempera, "The Huntress" (1978); as well as watercolors and drawings.

■ Pablo Picasso's Blue Period watercolor "Le Guitariste" (Guitar Player, 1903).

■ Edward Hopper's oils "Two Comedians" (1966) and "Bridle Path" (1939).

■ Mary Cassatt's "Two Little Sisters" (c. 1901-02), as well as color etchings by Cassatt.

■ Camille Pissarro's pointillist-inspired works "Le Marché de Gisors, Grande-Rue" (The Market of Gisors, on the Grande-Rue, 1885) and "Fenaison à Éragny" (Haymaking at Éragny, 1891).

■ Alberto Giacometti's sculpture "Femme Assise" (Seated Woman, 1956).

■ Elie Nadelman sculptures including "Circus Performer" (c. 1919).

■ Bronzes by Harriet Frishmuth, including "The Star" (1918).

■ Henry Moore bronzes including "Family Group" (1946).

■ Childe Hassam oils and watercolors, including "Rainy Day on the Avenue" (1893) and "The White Dory" (1895).

■ John Singer Sargent's oil "Girl Fishing" (1913).

■ Joan Miró's oil "Femmes et Oiseau dans la Nuit" (Women and Bird in the Night, 1946).

■ Wassily Kandinsky's abstract watercolor "Rosa Rot" (Rose Red, 1927).

The donors said they collected the works because they just wanted to see them every day in their home.

"We have lived in Greenwich a long time and what better place to share our collection with the community than the exciting New Bruce," they said in the statement.

According to the museum's website, the grand opening of the expansion is expected this fall. brucemuseum.org.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.



Mahesh Kumar, left, and Radha Krishna are co-owners of Spice Town, a new South Asian takeout market in Vernon. SUSAN DUNNE/HARTFORD COURANT

A trip to Spice Town

One-stop shopping for South Asian takeout, groceries in Vernon

By Susan Dunne

Hartford Courant

Radha Krishna and Mahesh Kumar are two friends from Hyderabad, India. They both work in the software industry, but they had a dream of opening a grocery store for the South Asian community near where they live in Connecticut. So in early April, the two men opened Spice Town at 378 Kelly Road in Vernon, offering takeout meals, packaged foods, halal meat and fresh produce.

"We want to be a one-stop food store. We sell groceries if you have time to cook and takeout if you don't," Krishna says.

The takeout food — no dish is more than \$10 — changes depending on the day of the week.

■ On Mondays, they serve Chicken 65, Chicken Tikka Masala, Bindi Peanut Fry and Tofu Gravy.

■ On Tuesdays, the offerings are Chili Chicken, Hyderabadi Chicken Gravy, Tindora Coconut Peanut Fry and Paneer Butter Masala.

■ On Wednesdays, the foods are Chicken 65, Chicken Tikka Masala, Boiled Egg Fry and Mutter Paneer.

■ On Thursdays, the offerings are Fish

65, Hyderabadi Chicken Gravy, Gobi Manchurian and Chana Masala.

■ On Fridays, the menu is Natu Kodi Fry, Tilapia Pulusu, Brinjal Nut Fry and Malai Kofta.

■ On Saturdays, the takeout is Fish 65, Natu Kodi Pulusu, Bindi Peanut Fry and Paneer Butter Masala.

■ On Sundays, the offerings are Natu Kodi Fry, Spice Town Chicken Curry, Tindora Coconut Peanut Fry and Egg Masala Gravy.

The takeout window also sells potato and pea samosas and gives out free tea after 3:30 p.m. There is no seating at Spice Town.

"There is a big Indian and Pakistani community here, but to buy food they had to go to Manchester or Hartford. There was nothing around here," says Krishna, who lives in Ellington. "We've been thinking about this for about three years, but before the pandemic there was no availability for this kind of location."

Spice Town is in a spacious vacancy that used to house Pet Valu. It has been renovated into a grocery store, with takeout and butcher counters.

"We partner with restaurants for the takeout food but we create our own recipes we give to them. We all have different thoughts

and different experiences about food," Krishna says. He is referring to himself, Kumar, who lives in South Windsor, and their wives, Usha Sri and Ratna Thota, who help in the store.

He would not name the restaurants that do their cooking. Eventually, after they determine what the customers like most, they will have a kitchen of their own, Krishna says.

The grocery aisles are full of ingredients essential to Indian and Pakistani cuisine. Krishna and Kumar are especially proud of the fresh produce, which includes vegetables and herbs common in mainstream grocery stores, as well as banana flower, methi, dudhi, gongura, karela and sugar cane pieces.

The shop also sells tulasi, a variety of basil that is used more frequently in Hindu worship than in cuisine.

"We pray to tulasi. Every house, in front of the house, there is tulasi," Krishna says. The shop also sells puja items for worship, and ornaments and statues of gods used in traditional festivals.

Spice Town is open seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. 860-237-4280.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Bar Piña in Hartford's Goodwin Hotel reopens

By Susan Dunne

Hartford Courant

Bar Piña, inside the Goodwin Hotel at 1 Haynes St. in downtown Hartford, reopened Wednesday, serving a limited menu from the adjoining restaurant Terreno, its proprietor, Tyler Anderson, announced.

The bar has been closed, except for a few weeks, since COVID lockdown began in March 2020. "We tried to open it a couple of times, but with the flare-ups it's been tough," he said. "It didn't work out, so we closed it again."

The Italian eatery Terreno, which used to be a Spanish restaurant called Porron, serves Italian classics, pastas, "pizzettes" and small bites. Small bites, pizzettes and pastas will be served at Piña, Anderson said, though the restaurant isn't yet open to dining.

Piña's hours are Wednesday to Saturday, 5 to 9 p.m. for food service and open later for bar service. Happy hours are 5 to 6:30 p.m. Terreno will open at the end of the summer.



Bar Piña in Hartford's Goodwin Hotel reopened Wednesday. COURANT FILE PHOTO

son said. "We'll wait to open at the end."

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.



PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Peter Dominic Cellino, AKA Peter D. Cellino (22-00306)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated April 6, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
John J. Cellino, 60 East Shore Drive, Niantic, CT 06357
4/14/2022 7189344

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Rev. Edward S. Jaksina (22-00238)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated April 6, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
DENNIS L KERN, KERN & KERN, LLC, 33 KENSINGTON RD., KENSINGTON, CT 06037
4/14/2022 7189315

**SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT
of the City of Middletown
LEGAL NOTICE**

The Budget Referendum/Meeting and Commissioner Election for the South Fire District of the City of Middletown will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at the firehouse, 445 Randolph Road, Middletown, for the following purposes:
1. To adopt the proposed budget of the South Fire District for fiscal year July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.
2. To establish a tax rate of 6.056 mills for the tax year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.
3. To elect one Commissioner to fill a commissioner vacancy, commencing at 12:00 p.m., April 27, 2022. The term for this position is until the 2027 commissioner election.

Uncontested Candidate is: Geen Thazhampallath, 71 Ribera Lane, Middletown, CT Voting will be between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 by voting machine at the Firehouse, 445 Randolph Road, Middletown, CT. Voters will be asked to show photo proof of identification.

Absentee ballots are available to qualified registered voters of the South Fire District who are unable to vote due to active service in the military, absence from the town during all hours of voting, illness, religious tenets, forbid secular activity on the day of voting, or physical disability.

Applications for absentee ballots can be obtained from the South Fire District website, www.southfireristrict.com, or in person at the firehouse M-F between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Absentee ballots must be received in person no later than 4:00 p.m. on 4/25/2022 or by mail no later than 8:00 p.m. on 4/26/2022.

A Special Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners will be held immediately thereafter at 8:00 p.m.

Deborah Kleckowski, Chairwoman
Board of Fire Commissioners

4/14/22 7189300

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: 578 Federal Road, Brookfield, CT 06804, April 28, 2022 at 11:00 AM. Craig Vandenburg unit 2068, Furniture, Business Supplies. The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

4/8/22 7187666

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Eileen M. Barriere (22-00304)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated April 6, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Gregory S. Barriere, 78 Spice Wood Lane, Berlin, CT 06037
4/14/2022 7189351

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Killingworth Board of Finance will present to the citizens of Killingworth the preliminary FY 2022/23 Municipal Operating Budget and Capital Budget for discussion and public comment. The hearing will be held in the All Purpose Room of the Killingworth Elementary School, 340 Route 81, Killingworth, CT @ 7:00PM Tuesday, April 26, 2022.

Robert Rimmer
Chairman/Killingworth Board of Finance
4/14/22 7184341

Notice is hereby given that Extra Space Storage will sell at public auction, to satisfy the lien of the owner, personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at location indicated:

ExtraSpace Storage, 56 Pameacha Ave, Middletown, CT 06457 860-575-7610 April 20, 2022 at 11:00 AM

Patrina Smith
Unit#2046
Household Items

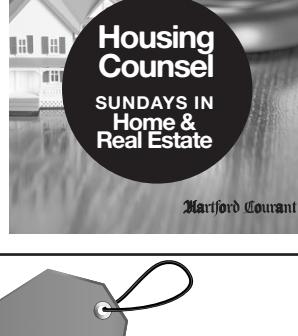
Lisa McNeil
Unit#2125
Household Items

Jackie Meyers
Unit#3055
Household Items

Faith Maura
Unit#3097
Household Items

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

4/7 & 4/14/22 7184845

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

ESTATE OF Jose A. Vega, late of East Hampton (22-00066)

The Hon. Jennifer L. Berkenstock, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Region # 14 Probate Court, by decree dated April 5, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Debra C. Daniels, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Alejandro Vega
c/o Richard H. Gee, Richard Gee Attorney at law, 339 Main street, PO Box 4102, Yalesville, CT 06492
7189257

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Lynn B. Gierman, Late of KILLINGWORTH (22-0231)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated April 8, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Helene Yates, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Curtis Sorensen, 608 Green Hill Road, Madison, CT 06443
4/14/22 7189282

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Harry A. Evangelist, Late of Westbrook, AKA Harry Evangelist (22-0245)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated April 11, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Leanne A. Evangelist and Laura Evangelist
c/o FRED D SETTE, SETTE & PARNOFF PC, 2324 WHITNEY AVENUE, PO. BOX 185366, HAMDEN, CT 06518
4/14/22 7189758

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A health care worker administers a COVID-19 vaccine Feb. 22 in Hagerstown, Maryland. KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

A new wave of COVID-19

Here's what you can do to prepare for the BA.2 subvariant of omicron

By Tara Parker-Pope and Kavul Sheikh
The New York Times

The next wave of COVID-19 is coming, and in some parts of the United States, it's already here. Are you ready?

The culprit this time is BA.2, a subvariant of the highly infectious omicron variant. Nobody knows for sure how much havoc it will cause, but BA.2 has already led to a surge of cases in Europe and is now the dominant version of the coronavirus in the United States and around the world.

Researchers are tracking an uptick in cases in the United States, and they've detected a rise in the viral particles recovered from nearly 150 wastewater surveillance sites. Because people can shed the coronavirus even if they never develop symptoms, pieces of the virus collected in wastewater can serve as advance warning several days before official case counts rise, said Bronwyn MacInnis, who directs pathogen genomic surveillance at the Broad Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Over the past two weeks, MacInnis' group

has seen a rapid increase in levels of the BA.2 subvariant in the Northeast.

"I don't think we're looking at a crazy lockdown scenario in this part of the world with BA.2," MacInnis said. "But we can't be sure that we won't have another curveball from this virus in the future."

U.S. health officials have said they are hopeful that BA.2 won't cause another major surge, in part because so many people were infected by the original omicron wave this winter and most likely have at least some natural or vaccine immunity to protect them against severe illness and hospitalization.

But other variables could turn the BA.2 wave into a more damaging surge.

One concern is that less than 70% of Americans over 65 have had a first booster shot, leaving a large group vulnerable, said

Dr. Eric Topol, a professor of molecular medicine at Scripps Research in La Jolla, California. And for many people who got their booster shots in the fall, immune protection may be waning. Unvaccinated people who are counting on natural immunity from a previous infection by a

different variant should know that BA.2 can easily sidestep those fading immune defenses.

While the virus is unpredictable, there are clear ways to protect yourself. Here's what you can do to prepare.

Pay attention to COVID-19 indicators in your community

Don't wait for public health officials to issue warnings. Keep an eye on COVID-19 statistics for your county or region. An easy way to do this is to check the color-coded map from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that shows community levels of COVID-19 around the country. The map is mostly a welcoming green right now, which means there are relatively low rates of new cases and hospital admissions. But there is a growing number of yellow spots, showing medium risk, in Texas, the Northeast and other areas, and orange-colored hot spots are cropping up in Montana, the Dakotas and other states, indicating high rates of community spread.

As the map shifts to yellow and eventually orange in your area, it's time to take extra precautions, including donning masks in public spaces and

rethinking large indoor gatherings.

Another useful indicator is your community's positive test rate. Experts advise taking more precautions as you see positive test rates start to rise above 5%. The Johns Hopkins coronavirus resource center shows daily U.S. and state-by-state testing trends.

Have high-quality masks on hand

Even if you're not wearing a mask now, check your mask supply and make sure you have plenty of high-quality medical-style masks on hand. A limited number of free N95 respirator masks are available at pharmacies and community centers. Enter your ZIP code on the CDC's mask locator to find a distributor near you.

Since many communities have lifted mask mandates, when and how often you use a mask is probably going to be up to you.

"The mask needs to go on when you start seeing case numbers going back up," said Linsey Marr, professor of civil and environmental engineering at Virginia Tech and one of the world's leading experts on viral transmission.

Order home COVID-19 tests sooner rather than later

Each U.S. household is

eligible for two sets of four home COVID tests free from the government; if you haven't ordered them yet, get them now before the weather turns warm.

The tests can be damaged by heat, and you don't want yours sitting for hours in a mail truck on a hot day.

"Now is better than a month from now, especially for people in hot locations,"

said Dr. Michael Mina, chief science officer for eMed, a company that verifies at-home test results.

"Just take advantage of the program, get them and put them in your cupboard and help other parts of the immune system become better at remembering how to fight the virus, said Theodora Hatzioannou,

a virus expert at Rockefeller University in New York City.

Get a pulse oximeter

A pulse oximeter is a small device that clips on your finger and measures your blood oxygen levels. When levels drop to 92 or lower, patients should see a doctor. Low oxygen can be a sign of COVID pneumonia and may raise your risk for serious complications from COVID-19. The devices can be less reliable for people with darker skin, so pay attention to downward trends as well as the number.

Study reveals large collection of genes behind schizophrenia

HealthDay News

Researchers who identified 120 genes linked to schizophrenia say their findings are the strongest ever demonstrating the genetic basis of the psychiatric disorder and could lead to new treatments.

"Previous research has shown associations between schizophrenia and many anonymous DNA sequences, but rarely has it been possible to link the findings to specific

genes," said co-lead author Michael O'Donovan of the Division of Psychological Medicine and Clinical Neurosciences at Cardiff University in Wales.

"The present study not only vastly increased the number of those associations, but we have now been able to link many of them to specific genes, a necessary step in what remains a difficult journey towards understanding the causes of this disorder and identifying new treatments,"

he added.

In the largest genetic study of schizophrenia, hundreds of researchers in 45 countries analyzed DNA from nearly 77,000 people with the condition and nearly 244,000 without it.

Along with identifying 120 genes likely to contribute to schizophrenia, researchers found that these genes are concentrated in brain cells called neurons, but not in any other cell or tissue type. This suggests that

neurons play a crucial role in schizophrenia, according to authors of the study published in the journal *Nature*.

They also said that abnormal neuron function in schizophrenia affects many brain areas, which could explain its wide-ranging symptoms, including hallucinations, delusions and problems with thinking clearly.

"Whilst people with schizophrenia can recover,

they experience long-term problems with their mental and physical health, as well as impacts on relationships, education and work," said co-lead author James Walters, director of the MRC Center for Neuropsychiatric Genetics and Genomics at Cardiff University.

He said researchers hope their findings and that of companion studies can be used to advance understanding of schizophrenia and developing treatments.



DREAMSTIME

CELEBRITIES

Keys' album among registry additions

From news services

Critically acclaimed debut albums by Wu-Tang Clan and Alicia Keys, Ricky Martin's Latin pop mega-hit "Livin' La Vida Loca," and Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" are among the recordings being inducted this year into the National Recording Registry.

The Library of Congress announced Wednesday the 25 songs, albums, historical recordings and even a podcast that will be preserved as important contributions to American culture and history.

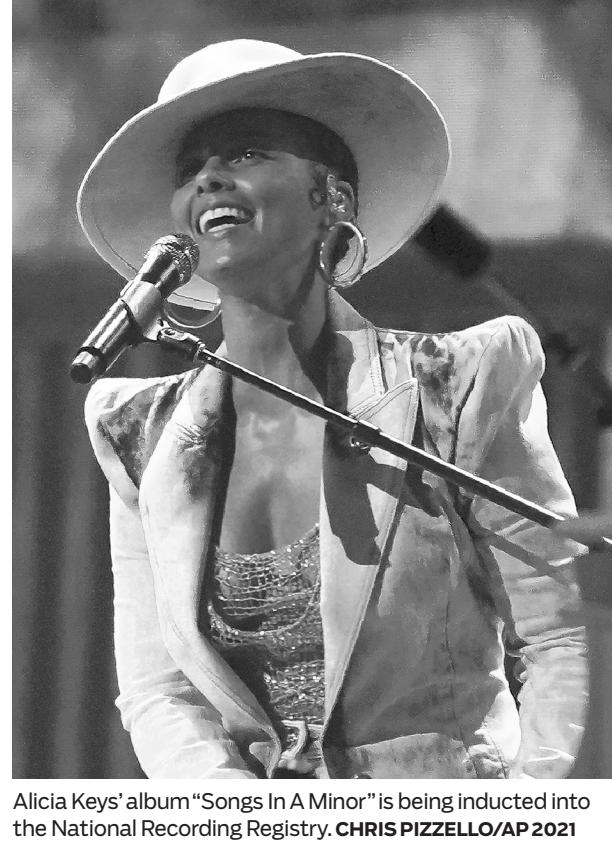
Keys' "Songs In A Minor," released in 2001, introduced the New York musician to the world with her unique fusion of jazz, R&B and hip-hop and earned her five Grammy awards. The album has been certified as seven-times multiplatinum by the Recording Industry Association of America.

The Staten Island collective Wu-Tang Clan — including RZA, Ol' Dirty Bastard, GZA, Ghostface Killah, Method Man and more — released its highly influential debut "Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers)" in 1993, which combined East Coast hardcore rap centered on kung fu film storylines and samples.

Other albums included were Linda Ronstadt's "Canciones De Mi Padre," Bonnie Raitt's Grammy-winning "Nick of Time," A Tribe Called Quest's "The Low End Theory," and the Cuban musical ensemble's self-titled debut "Buena Vista Social Club."

Other songs now in the registry include Journey's "Don't Stop Believin,'" "Walking the Floor Over You" by Ernest Tubb, "Moon River" by Andy Williams and "Reach Out, I'll Be There," by The Four Tops.

Other recordings include public radio station WNYC's broadcasts from



Alicia Keys' album "Songs In A Minor" is being inducted into the National Recording Registry. **CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP 2021**

Sept. 11, 2001, and Marc Maron's interview with the late actor Robin Williams on his podcast "WTF with Marc Maron."

Lopez doc to open Tribeca fest: A Netflix documentary about Jennifer Lopez titled "Halftime" will kick off the 21st Tribeca Festival. The New York film festival announced its opening night film Wednesday. The Tribeca Festival runs June 8 to 19.

Organizers said "Halftime" follows Lopez as she reflects on her milestones and evolution as an artist and navigates the second half of her career. In 2020, Lopez hosted the Super Bowl halftime show alongside Shakira. The film will debut June 14 on Netflix.

Couple drop restraining order against Miller: A Hawaii couple have dropped their petition for a temporary restraining order against actor Ezra

Miller, who is known for playing "The Flash" in "Justice League" films and allegedly harassed patrons of a karaoke bar in a Big Island town last month.

According to court documents, a judge dismissed the case Monday after the couple requested it. William Dean, a lawyer who represents the couple, declined comment on why his clients no longer want to pursue the petition that accused Miller of threatening them in Hilo, the same town where Miller was arrested at the karaoke bar on March 27.

April 14 birthdays: Singer Loretta Lynn is 90. Actor Julie Christie is 82. Actor John Shea is 73. Actor Brad Garrett is 62. Actor Anthony Michael Hall is 54. Actor Adrien Brody is 49. Rapper Da Brat is 48. Actor Antwon Tanner is 47. Actor Sarah Michelle Gellar is 45. Actor Rob McElhenney is 45. Actor Abigail Breslin is 26.

For Quinn, 'Bridgerton' series changed everything to 'bonkers'

By Alicia Rancilio

Associated Press

Shonda Rhimes was on vacation when she stumbled upon the first book in the Regency-era "Bridgerton" book series, "The Duke & I" by Julia Quinn and quickly was all in.

"I immediately went out and bought all the rest of her books," said Rhimes in a recent interview. "Her way with words is delightful. I thought, 'These are characters I'd want to know.' They had a universal feeling to them, and I thought they'd make amazing television."

Rhimes passed the books on to Chris Van Dusen, who was equally besotted.

"I took them home and fell in love with them from the very first moment I read them," he said. Van Dusen went on to create, executive produce and serve as showrunner of the series for Netflix.

"Bridgerton" was the first of Rhimes' series to debut on Netflix under her deal with the streamer and chief content officer Ted Sarandos, and it set a high bar. Debuting on Christmas Day 2020, the show, starring Rege-Jean Page and Phoebe Dynevor in season one, was a hit.

"I got an email from Ted Sarandos saying, 'Great job,' which I thought meant great job. And then maybe a week or so in, we started to get the numbers, and I really understood what great job meant," said Rhimes. "I was just excited to have a show at Netflix."

For Quinn, life was pretty good before Rhimes and Van Dusen came calling in 2017, but it has only improved since. She was making a "nice living" as a historical romance writer with a following. The show, she says, changed everything to "bonkers."

"I can't think of a better



Julia Quinn, who is seen March 8 at her Seattle home, is the author of the "Bridgerton" book series. **TED S. WARREN**

word. I was going with surreal for a while, but now we've gone from surreal to just bonkers. Every day it seems something new and amazing happens in the 'Bridgerton' world."

Quinn also serves as a consultant on the series and jokes it's the "easiest" job ever. "I do see the scripts, and I'm all, 'This is great! Nothin' to say!'"

Season two of "Bridgerton," adapted from book two, "The Viscount Who Loved Me," is now streaming on Netflix. The new episodes follow Anthony Bridgerton (Jonathan Bailey), the family's oldest child, who enters into the social season intent on finding a bride. Page, whose career has blown up thanks to the series, did not return for season two. Dynevor does appear in a supporting role.

Each book in the series focuses on a different Bridgerton family member, and the show's seasons are following suit. There are eight books in the series, plus a book of epilogues with a short story called "The Bridgertons: Happily Ever After." A limited prequel TV series, written

by Rhimes, is also in development about the origin story of characters Queen Charlotte, Lady Danbury and Lady Violet Bridgerton.

Quinn is enjoying a renewed interest in the "Bridgerton" books.

"Romance writing is like a balloon. Eventually you stretch the balloon as far as you can go, and it's really hard to get people to come around and go into the balloon. And people outside the balloon have never heard of you, which is totally fine. 'Bridgerton' just popped the balloon," said Quinn.

"Suddenly all sorts of people who never picked up a romance novel or historical romance novel were reading them. In April 2021, all eight books were on the New York Times bestseller list at once."

Quinn's publisher printed new books with Page and Dynevor on the cover, and they sold out instantly. Then every title was sold out, Quinn said.

Quinn's next book, the graphic novel "Miss Butterworth and the Mad Baron," is due out in May.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Husband says partner can't roam from home

Dear Amy: I've been married to my husband for 29 years. He's a good dad to our grown children and a good husband to me.

One thing gives me a lot of anxiety and causes heated arguments: I would like to visit my family and friends in Greece, where I am originally from.

He does not have as much time off from work as I do, and he dislikes taking long trips. He's a homebody.

I have more time off from work, and I have the time and the means to travel to my homeland for a visit.

My husband and I have arguments over me traveling with our kids, or going away with my girlfriends for a couple of days.

He always guilts me or makes me afraid to go, and sometimes he even threatens me with a divorce if I go. We end up having huge fights about this.

Otherwise, he lets me do whatever I like to do.

I sometimes feel trapped because I have to make my case each time for why I want to go anywhere.

I wish I had a magic wand to make him understand that it is important for me to be with my family and to stay connected.

Your suggestions?
— *Homebound*

Dear Homebound: Other than controlling your time away from your home, your husband "lets you do whatever you like to do."

Yes, marriage is fueled by compromise, but one partner should not actually be in charge of the other.

The kindest assumption is that your husband feels extremely anxious about you being away from

home, and he reacts to his anxiety by acting out and trying to control you.

I suggest that you sit down with him and say: "Over the next 12 months, I plan to be away from home overnight for a total of around 14 (or whatever number) nights. This includes a trip to Greece, and an overnight or two with the kids or my friends. I'd love for you to come with me to Greece, if you can swing it. I understand that this is hard for you."

If your relatively brief sojourns away from home inspire him to threaten divorce or emotionally punish you, then you need to decide whether you are willing to tolerate that in order to stay with him.

Threats of divorce are an extremely manipulative tool to try to control you, made by someone who feels very out of control. These threats actually weaken your relationship. If this is his "go to" nuclear option, then you should call him on it.

Dear Amy: My best friend has the annoying habit of copying me.

If I upgrade my phone, she upgrades hers. If I buy a designer purse, she'll purchase the same brand.

If I tell her I've had

lunch in a nearby town,

she'll ask where and later book a table.

I spend time researching what I buy, where I shop and new places to visit.

It feels like she uses me as a concierge or personal shopper.

I used to joke with my husband, "Let's see how long it takes her to buy one like this." Over time, though, her behavior has worn thin. It infuriates me.

Is she being competitive? Envious? Clueless?

She sometimes does the same thing with her daughters.

I hope you can offer a fresh perspective that will make it possible for me to broach the subject with her.

— *Copied*

Dear Copied: The "appropriate" response is to feel flattered.

Your actual response is to feel annoyed. Part of the joy of your curation experience is to find special items or experiences that are unique to you.

Tell her! Say, "I think I'm not 'supposed' to feel this way, but — honestly — when you duplicate my purchases, I notice it and ... it bothers me."

Dear Amy: My wife and I are planning our anniversary celebration for the end of July, with more than 100 expected guests from nearby cities and a few from out of state on our invite list. When should we send invitations?

— *Wondering*

Dear Wondering: July can be a busy month for people who may already be scrambling to put their summer plans together.

Send a "Save the Date" email now, noting the particulars and asking people to put this on their calendars.

Send your invitation in late May or early June; this will give everyone several weeks to RSVP.

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HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19):

Intuition can take you where you need to go. The universe is encouraging you to start now — even if you don't have all the answers. You may make mistakes at first, but no one is good when they start out. Allow yourself to follow to your gut.

Taurus (April 20-May 20):

You may be pulled in several different directions today. Multiple people may reach out, supplying you with a stacked social plate. Be open to spontaneous opportunities — you might run into some good luck! That said, don't let the day end before you've resolved any urgent responsibilities.

Gemini (May 21-June 20):

What goes around comes around. An unexpected return on a joint venture or investment could make itself known. This likely reflects a seed that you've sown in the past. Working hard should yield encouraging results, while not putting in effort will end in disappointment.

Cancer (June 21-July 22):

High standards may not be reasonable today. Focusing on your lofty goals could be forcing you to choose productivity over those who care about you. Let the people who matter to you be your support system. It's good to shoot for the moon, but it's not OK to isolate yourself.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

Your thoughts and feelings may not be understood by others. You might have a chance to express yourself to new people, and this is not the best time to bring out your most shocking stories or opinions.

You may be authentic, but this can create a different first impression than you'd like.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):

Having too much to say could lead to a letdown. You may be speaking or bragging too confidently about a subject you don't know enough about, not realizing that you're being overbearing. Consider making an effort to rein in the need to speak about anything and everything.

and mortally wounded by John Wilkes Booth during a performance of "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater in Washington.

In 1910, President William Howard Taft became the first U.S. chief executive to throw the ceremonial first pitch at a baseball game.

In 1935, the "Black Sunday" dust storm

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A helping hand could appear from an unexpected place. You have a typical group of people who support you, but they may have prior commitments. Instead, someone that you didn't expect might end up a loyal friend. As long as you ask for what you need, everything is likely to work out!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):

People who knew you in the past may not understand the person that you are today. While it can be hurtful to discover that someone disapproves of the choices you've made, you don't need their approval. It's OK to leave acquaintances in the past if they want to stay there.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):

Fear may arise from a lack of security. Try to let go of the authority you may be scrabbling to hold on to, because it's likely the illusion of power. You can't control other people, and their choices will affect your life without your input. Accepting this will help you find peace.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):

Having too much to say could lead to a letdown. You may be speaking or bragging too confidently about a subject you don't know enough about, not realizing that you're being overbearing. Consider making an effort to rein in the need to speak about anything and everything.

descended upon the central Plains.

In 1999, NATO mistakenly bombed a convoy of ethnic Albanian refugees; Yugoslav officials said 75 people were killed.

In 2007, riot police beat and detained protesters as thousands attempted to stage a rally in Moscow against Vladimir Putin's government.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On April 14, 1828, the first edition of Noah Webster's "American Dictionary of the English Language" was published.

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln was shot

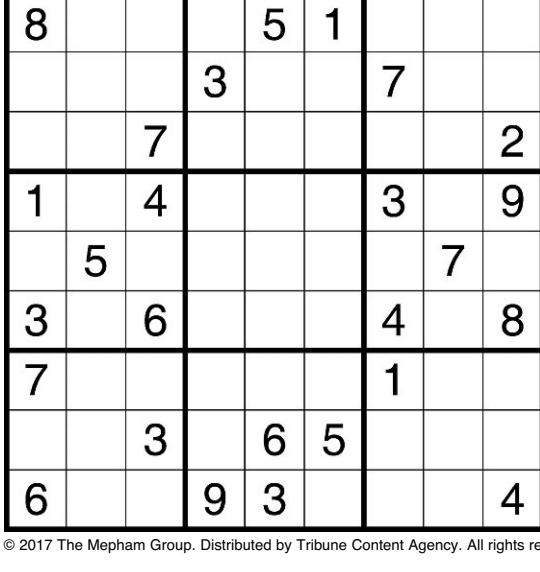
BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at PlayJumble.com



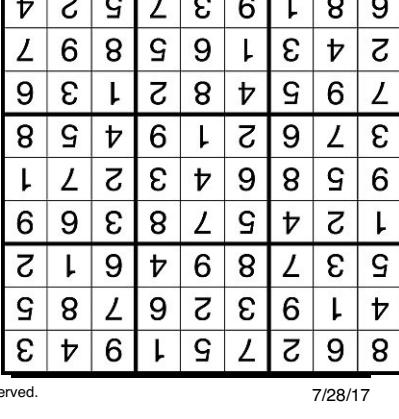
Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU



Level: 1 2 3 4

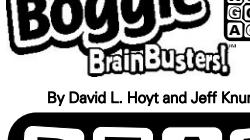
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.



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7/28/17

BOGGLE



By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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www.bogglebrainbusters.com

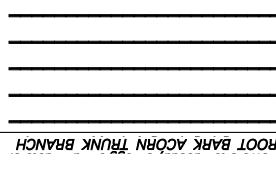
INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words with at least three letters. You can use the same letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE YOUR BOGGLE RATING
3 letters = 1 point 1151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points 101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points 61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points 31 - 60 = Gamer
7 letters = 6 points 21 - 30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points 11 - 20 = Amateur
9+ letters = 15 points 0 - 10 = Try again

BOGGLE BrainBusters Bonus

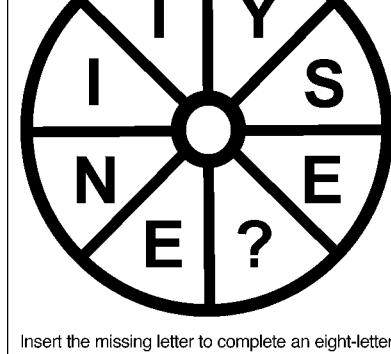
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST FIVE WORDS RELATED TO TREES in the grid of letters.



ROTT BARK ACORN TUNK BRANCH

WordWheel

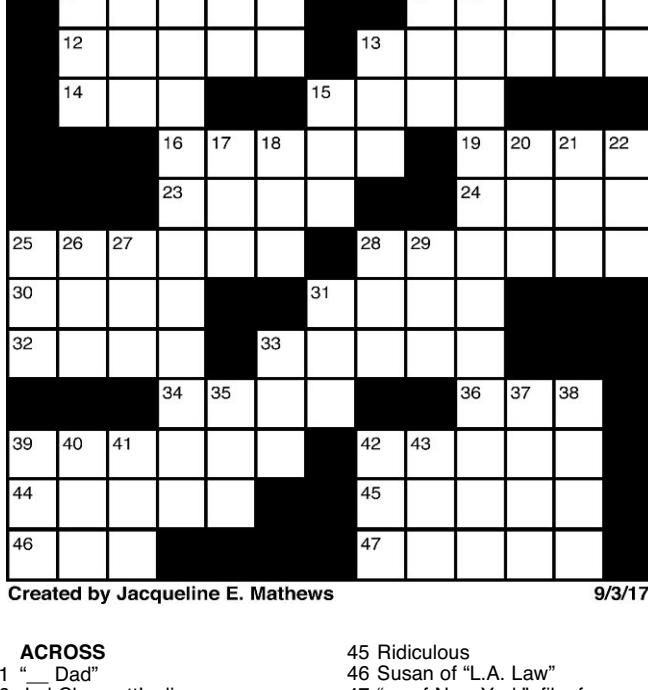


Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

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TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews

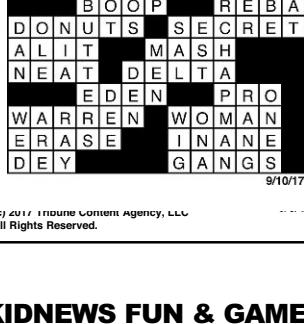


Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/3/17

ACROSS
1 "___ Dad"
6 Jed Clampett's discovery
9 Former students, for short
10 "Star Trek: Deep ___ Nine"
12 Sound of a water balloon hitting the pavement
13 Actor/director Lee and others
14 Series for George Eads
15 "Quantum ___"
16 "Kate & ___"
19 Actor Richard
23 Betty of old cartoons
24 Series about a Southern soccer mom
25 "Superior ___"
28 "I've Got a ___"
30 Landed; touched down
31 Series set in Korea
32 Tidy
33 Actress Burke
34 Sher of "The Middle"
36 "Semi-___"; Will Ferrell movie
39 Actor Beatty
42 "Dr. Quinn, Medicine ___"
44 Wipe away

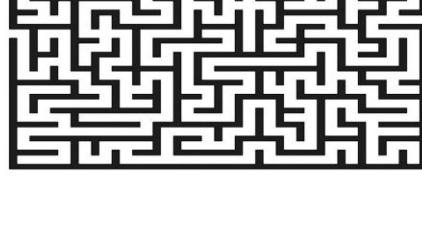
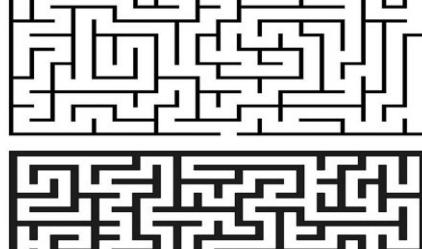
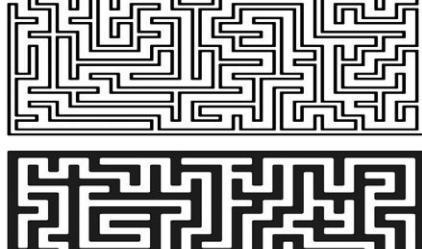
45 Ridiculous
46 Susan of "L.A. Law"
47 ___ of New York"; film for Leonardo DiCaprio
DOWN
1 Gender: abbr.
2 Setting for "Heidi"
3 "American Housewife" actress
4 Tumor suffix
5 Q-U connection
6 Furniture wood
7 ___ Age: Collision Course"; animated film sequel
8 ___ Miserables"
10 Bath with seats
11 "Orange Is the New Black" role
13 "Now You ___ Me"; Jesse Eisenberg movie
15 Cold sore site
17 "A ___ Like Love"; film for Amanda Peet
18 "NCIS: ___ Angeles"
20 "Hogan's Heroes" setting: abbr.
21 Rebecca's husband on "Return to Amish"
22 King Cole
25 Role on "Roseanne"
26 Vaudevillian ___ Olsen
27 Long or Peeples
28 Actor Mineo
29 Suffix for strong or long
31 ___ Behaving Badly"
33 Lion's lair
35 Billy ___ Williams
37 "You ___ ?"; Lurch's line on "The Addams Family"
38 "The Crazy ___"; sitcom for Robin Williams
39 Marry
40 "Who Do You Think You ___?"
41 Charles or Romano
42 Head topper
43 "Cat ___ Hot Tin Roof"



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9/10/17

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: golly gee

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

X W I F I M A K Y N G U Q E R C G V
L C G E N E R A L G Y G S D G F U G
G G F R K K G R E E N U F I A S I R
O I B V E H Z X K J O L N X N U D O
L N G W B Y G F J R V L A B G O E S
D G G R A P P L E G E N I U S G L S
E E W N F B T N H G T F L J H A K M
N R G I N S E N G E S X X T U T R A
Y H G X I G L G G O P T W M W E P G
G R R G N X Y A Z G R O G P G L M R
O G O G G B R P N B R G H A K E Z U
N O U R G A C I H G G G E G L G G E
G L N B G I G N F N U I T O B E R L
G F D B T G D G B E P G T B T G I X
C E A N A R J D U V P G O B G I S H
B R A G S O V L Y N Y L B L O R T M
G I X E F W G O O D K E F E A L L Q
G G E N T L E R Z J G V I B T V E R

GAGGING GHETTO GOBBLE GRISTLE
GALE GIANT GOES GROSS
GANG GIDDY GOLDEN GROUND
GAPING GARAGE GINGER GONG GROWTH
GARAGE GATELEG GINSENG GOOD GRUEL
GATELEG GENERAL GIRL GORGE GUIDE
GENERAL GENEROUS GIST GRAB GULL
GENIUS GENTLE GLUE GRAPPLE GUNK
GENUIN GENTLE GLUG GREEN GUPPY
GERM GOAT GREY GREY

343

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JUMBLE

JUMBLE

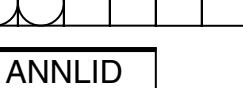
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SUGES



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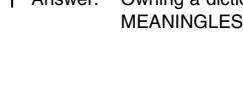
ONYEM



LLOWYS



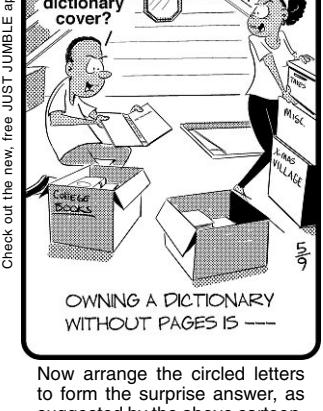
ANNLID



Ans. here:

THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Check out the new *JUST JUMBLE* app

OWNING A DICTIONARY WITHOUT PAGES IS —

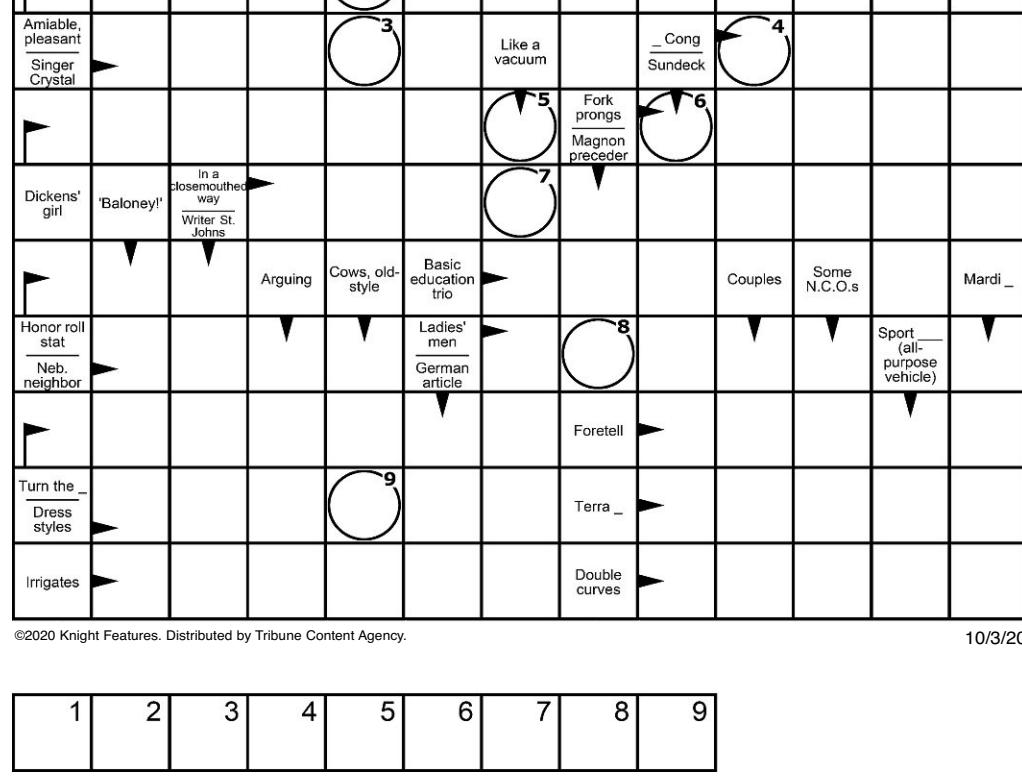
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Jumbles: GUESS MONEY SLOWLY INLAND
Answer: Owning a dictionary without pages is — MEANINGLESS

S A L V A T I O N

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.



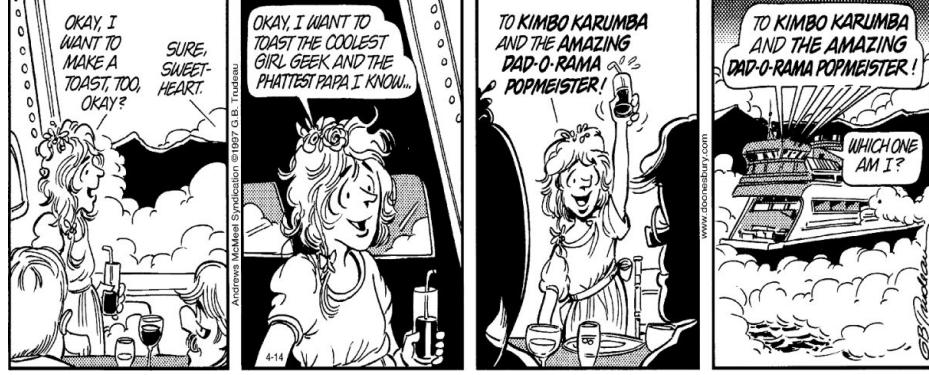
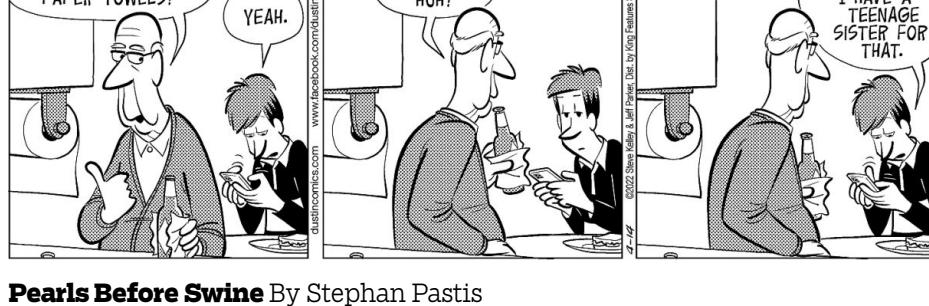
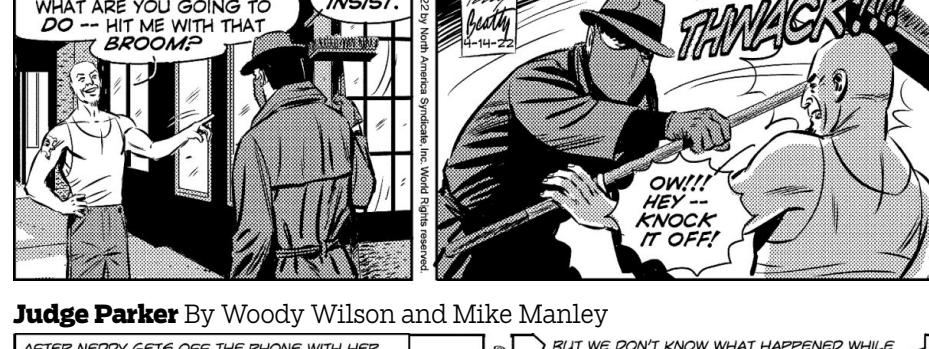
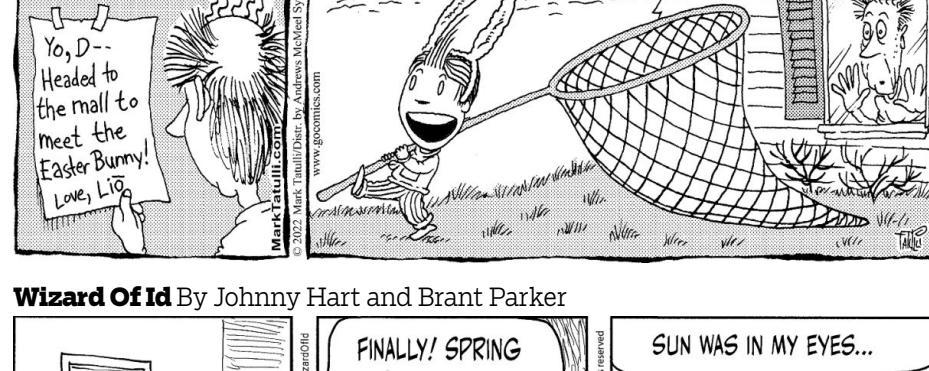
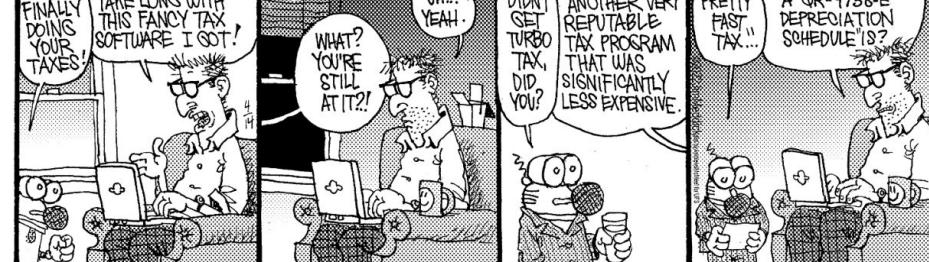
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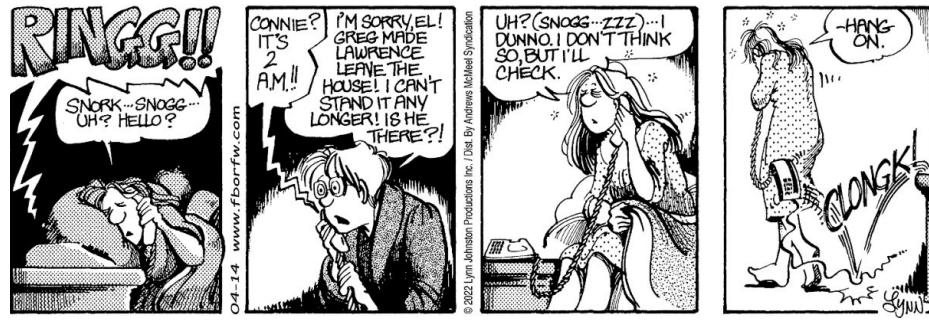
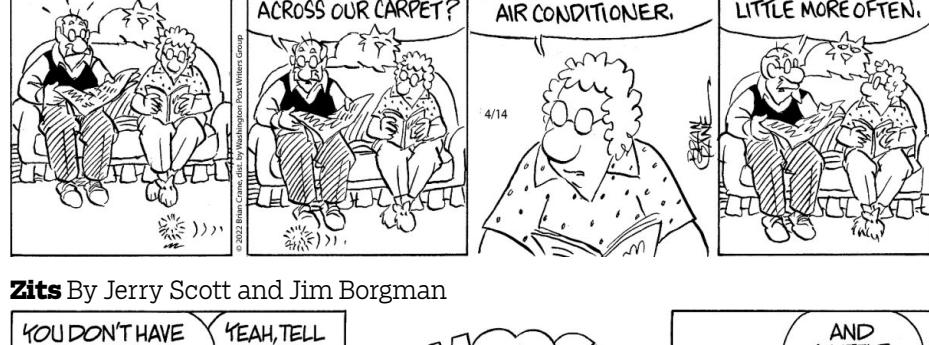
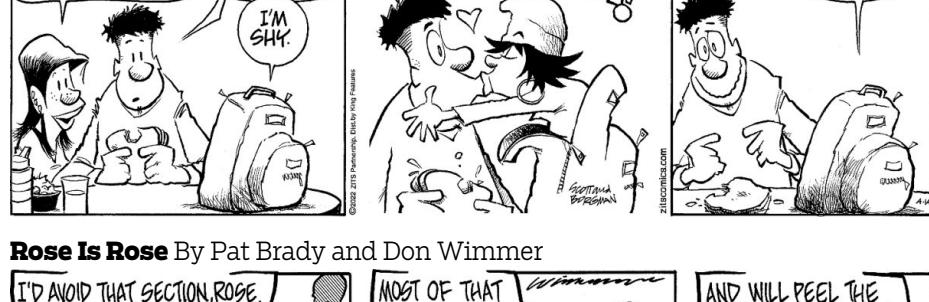
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Find 10 Differences



Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz**Classic Doonesbury** By Garry Trudeau**Garfield** By Jim Davis**Shoe** By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly**Dustin** By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker**Pearls Before Swine** By Stephan Pastis**Mutts** By Patrick McDonnell**Arctic Circle** By Alex Hallatt**Jump Start** By Robb Armstrong**Get Fuzzy** By Darby Conley**Blondie** By Dean Young and John Marshall**Dilbert** By Scott Adams**Gil Thorp** By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin**Mary Worth** By Karen Moy and June Brigman**Rex Morgan, M.D.** By Terry Beatty**Judge Parker** By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley**Baldo** By Cantu and Castellanos**Funky Winkerbean** By Tom Batiuk**Lio** By Mark Tatulli**Wizard Of Id** By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker**Rhymes With Orange** By Hilary Price**Monty** By Jim Meddick

For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston**B.C.** By Hart**Beetle Bailey** by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker**Hi & Lois** By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne**Hagar The Horrible** By Chris Browne**Non Sequitur** By Wiley Miller**Curtis** By Ray Billingsley**Pickles** By Brian Crane**Zits** By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman**Rose Is Rose** By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer**Mother Goose And Grimm** By Mike Peters**CROSSWORD**

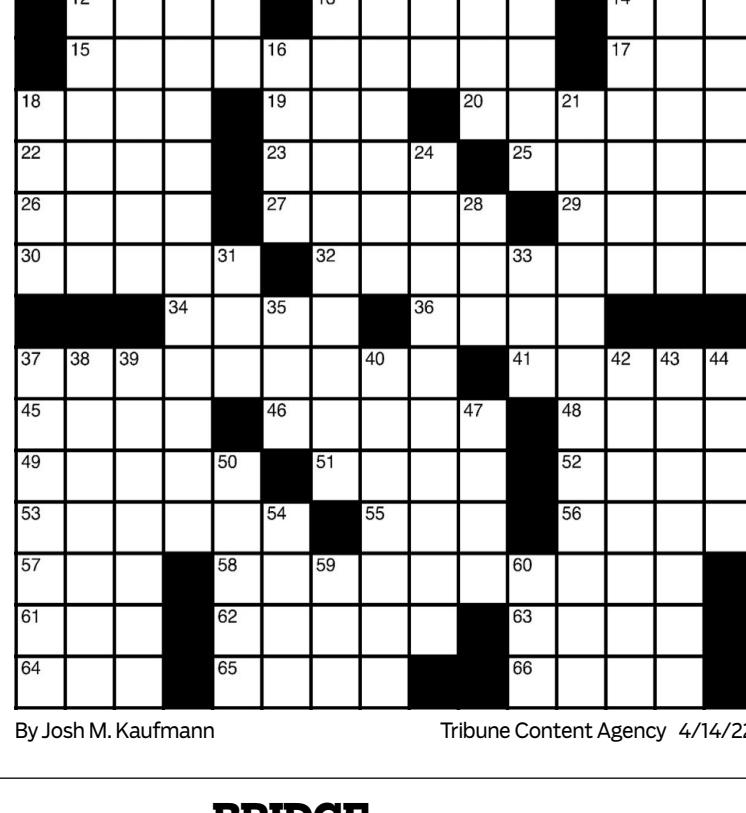
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

1 "Leaves of Grass" name
 5 Links to a social media post
 9 Ivy, e.g.: Abbr.
 12 They're better boosted than inflated
 13 Actor Willem
 14 NCAA's "Tide"
 15 Where many blood cells are produced
 17 Witty retort
 18 French film
 19 Be in session
 20 Neutralize
 22 Indigo plant
 23 Pleased
 25 Challenges requiring erve
 26 Like some Sundays
 27 Aleppo's land
 29 Alliance acronym
 30 Champs-Élysées lunch choice
 32 Carrying process
 34 Break in the action
 36 German pop star who sang "99 Luftballons"
 37 The very beginning
 41 Russian rulers
 45 Go left, say
 46 Does as told
 48 First name in fashion
 49 Wild party
 51 "En-chanted" movie girl
 52 Gradually withdraw

Down

1 Online group study
 2 Fret (over)
 3 Big name in travel guides
 4 Mao __-tung
 5 Style of some surf and turf
 6 Cont. south of Western 31-Down
 7 "Glad that's settled!"
 8 Stitched up
 9 Katana-wielding warrior
 10 Approximately
 11 Slams, slangily
 13 Newspaper rival of the Bugle in the Spider-Man universe
 16 Inbox list: Abbr.
 18 Advanced math subj.
 21 Oz, for one



By Josh M. Kaufmann

Tribune Content Agency 4/14/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.**NORTH**

♠ K J 2

♥ 10 6

♦ Q 4

♣ A K Q 9 5 3

WEST

♠ A 9 6

♥ K J 9 7 4

♦ K 10 7

♣ J 8

EAST

♠ 8 5 4 3

♥ Q 5 3 2

♦ 9 8 6 5

♣ 7

SOUTH

♠ Q 10 7

♥ A 8

♦ A J 3 2

♣ 10 6 4 2

The bidding:

West North East South

1 ♠ 2 ♣ 3 NT Pass 2 NT

Opening lead — seven of hearts.

Duck soup

In a vacuum, South would almost surely go down in three notrump on this deal. He would win the first or second heart, run his clubs and end up trying a diamond finesse for his ninth trick. West, who would have discarded a diamond, a heart and two spades on the clubs, would take the queen of diamonds with the king and cash his remaining hearts and the ace of spades for down one.

But when the deal occurred in a 2001 team contest, declarer was not operating in a vacuum. He had heard West open the bidding and proceeded to take full advantage of what he knew about West's hand.

After East produced the queen of hearts at trick one, it was easy to place West with the ace of spades, K-J of hearts and king of diamonds for his opening bid. And since West's seven of hearts was presumably his fourth-best heart, East's queen was known to be his only heart higher than the seven.

What all this added up to was that if declarer ducked the first heart, won the

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

second and then ran his clubs, discarding a spade and a diamond, West would almost certainly be holding the ace of spades, K-x of diamonds and two hearts as his last five cards.

South would then concede a spade to West, who could cash his two remaining hearts but would then have to lead a diamond from the king to give South his ninth trick.

West's only hope of escaping this ending would be to keep all three of his hearts and reduce himself to the singleton king of diamonds and ace of spades as his last five cards. Then, if declarer led a spade at trick nine, West would collect four tricks for down one.

This scheme could not succeed against an alert declarer, however. If West kept all of his hearts, South would know West had bared his king of diamonds and would cash the ace to make the contract.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.**JUMBLE**

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Uncramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NGROP

YMMMO

EDXECE

MYLHNA

Time and a half!
I can use the extra cash!
I'm in!

We have a commemorative coin that needs to be put out next week.

Just Jumble, Ep. 14. Follow us on Twitter @BryJumble

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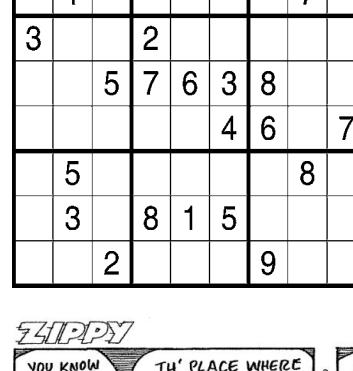
WHEN THE U.S. MINT ASKED ITS EMPLOYEES TO WORK OVERTIME, THEY ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BLEAK ALIAS WRENCH AROUND

Answer: There will be Jumble cartoons every day as long as the cartoonist doesn't — DRAW A BLANK

TODAY'S SUDOKU

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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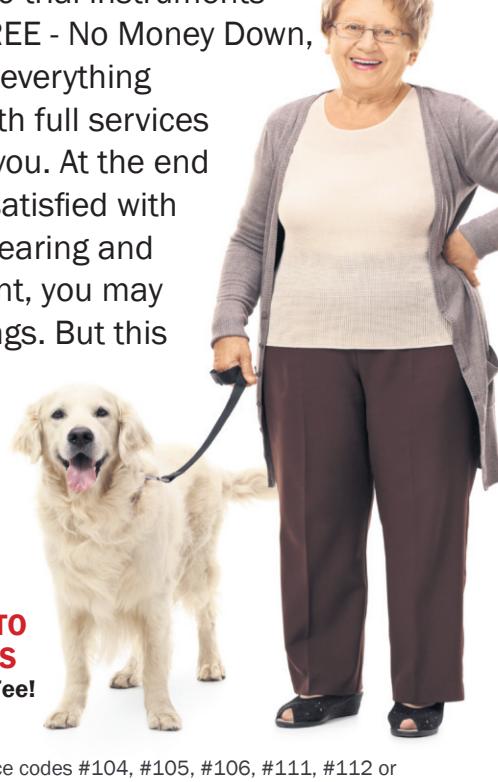
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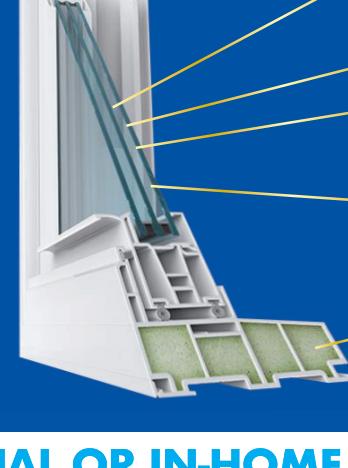
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Hartford Courant

SPORTS

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RED SOX 9, TIGERS 7

Sox rough up Rodriguez, roll to win in Detroit

By Larry Lage

Associated Press

DETROIT — Eduardo Rodriguez left pitches over the plate and his former teammates took advantage.

Jackie Bradley, Kiké Hernández and Rafael Devers hit consecutive RBI doubles in the fourth inning to chase Rodriguez, and the Boston Red Sox held on to beat the Detroit Tigers 9-7 Wednesday and win the three-game series.

"He was middling a lot and when we got him in the zone, we did damage," manager Alex Cora said.

Boston went into the fifth inning ahead 7-1 and led by 9-2 after batting in the seventh, and its comfortable cushion became a precarious two-run lead going into the final inning.

Hansel Robles got out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth by getting Jonathan Schoop to pop up on the infield and retired the side in order in the ninth, earning the save.

"He did an amazing job," Cora said.

Nathan Eovaldi (1-0) allowed up Schoop's solo home run in the first inning and not much else until Akil Baddoo hit a solo homer in the fifth. Eovaldi allowed two runs, four hits and a walk over five innings.

Rodriguez (0-1) gave up a tiebreaking sacrifice fly to Alex Verdugo for the second out in the fourth before third baseman Jeimer Candelario made a throwing error on Christian Vazquez's grounder on a rain-soaked field.

Boston made the most of the opportunity, hitting three straight run-scoring doubles to left to end Rodriguez's outing.

"If you make a mistake, you're going to pay for it," Rodriguez said. "That's what happened in that inning."

"Too much of the plate and too much of the strike zone."

Trevor Story followed with a RBI single off Rony Garcia to give the Red Sox a 7-1 lead.

Rodriguez allowed up seven runs — two earned — five hits and three walks over 3 1/3 innings in his second start with the Tigers. He signed a \$77 million, five-year contract in Detroit after playing in Boston for six seasons.

Tigers rookie Spencer Torkelson, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2020 amateur draft, cleared the fences for the first time in the majors with a two-run homer in the seventh to cut the deficit to 9-4.

"It's something to build on,"

Turn to Sox, Page 2

Inside

■ Red Sox notes. **Page 2**
 ■ Scherzer cruises, Alonso drives in five as Mets beat Phillies. **Page 2**
 ■ Yankees news, notes. **Page 2**



UConn head coach Dan Hurley talks with forward Akok Akok in the second half of a game against Georgetown on Jan. 25 in Storrs. Akok announced Wednesday that he will enter the transfer portal. JESSICA HILL/AP

East Carolina guard Newton commits while forward Akok enters transfer portal

By Shreyas Laddha

Hartford Courant

Former East Carolina guard Tristen Newton announced he will transfer to the UConn men's basketball team with an Instagram post on Wednesday.

While Newton is coming, another current member of the UConn roster is going as Akok Akok announced his plans to enter the transfer portal. His departure means eight members of the Huskies' roster at the end of the season are now gone.

Newton averaged 17.7 points, 4.8 rebounds and 5.0 assists during the 2021-22 season. He has two years of eligibility remaining.

Newton is a three-level scorer and willing playmaker. On the defensive end, he moves well laterally and has a propensity for steals due to his active hands.

"He is electrifying," said David Gutierrez, Newton's high school coach. "When you get to see him, you are going to fall in love with his offensive skills. His passing skills are amazing."

UConn faced stiff competition for Newton.

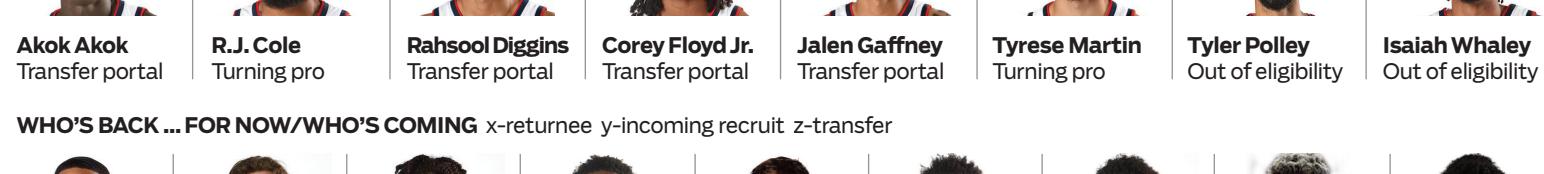
"UConn, you got lucky man," said Gutierrez. "Wow. UConn had a battle. You had TCU on him hard."

Turn to UConn, Page 4

Turning it over

Since the end of the 2021-22 season, the UConn men's basketball team has undergone quite a turnover. Consider these developments in Storrs:

WHO'S GONE



WHO'S BACK ... FOR NOW/WHO'S COMING x-returnee y-incoming recruit z-transfer



Transfer portal giveth, and taketh away, from Hurley, Huskies

 **Dom Amore**

There is always a fine line between order and chaos. In college basketball it has become so fine a line that one needs only to refresh a Twitter page to drift

back and forth.

The news has been coming at a bewildering clip for the UConn men's basketball program. Rahsoul Diggins, Jalen Gaffney, Akok Akok and Corey Floyd Jr. are out, Tristen Newton in, with presumably more to follow. The news of Floyd and Newton came down on Wednesday.

Someone asked me this week via social media whether this is the new normal, or some systemic

issue with Dan Hurley's program.

The best answer I have is it is the new normal — after all, roughly 30 percent of Division I players are now in the portal — but that is a fair question for a coach and program that has been building its culture around player development.

Is that approach still viable in this new normal?

"Adapt or die," Hurley said

Wednesday night. "You're going

to have to blend, in the recruiting process, high-impact guys who are freshmen who are ready to go right away and help you win, and guys who need a little more development but have the talent to have a role here, and then being strategic with transfers."

This is not a UConn crisis, it's going on nearly everywhere, but Hurley faces new challenges

Turn to Amore, Page 4

UCONN FOOTBALL

New coaches, new culture — and a new attitude for Carter

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

STORRS — As Nathan Carter took over the featured running back's role for UConn and started stacking productive games, the man who was soon to take over the program was watching.

Carter gained 324 yards in a three-game stretch in October, averaging

6.0 yards per carry against Wyoming, Vanderbilt and UMass. When the Huskies got to Clemson in mid-November, newly hired coach Jim Mora was roaming the sidelines to observe up close.

"He pulled me aside, he was talking about the future," Carter said Tuesday after UConn's practice. "Keeping me encouraged for the rest of the season, all the time he's been motivating me,

not only me, but the rest of the team, making sure we knew he was changing the culture around here."

Carter finished the season with 578 yards, averaging 4.6 per carry. Mora hired offensive coordinator Nick Charlton with a plan to install an approach to the offense used by the Super Bowl cham-

Turn to Carter, Page 4



Nathan Carter became UConn's most productive back last season, and the new coaching staff expects to take further advantage of his talents.

JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT



Safety Tip of the Day

Best to avoid children's clothing with drawstrings on the hood. Those drawstrings can get caught on playground equipment and other objects and create a choking hazard.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

Celtics: NBA First Round vs. Nets (Game 1), Sunday, 3:30 p.m.; NBA First Round vs. Nets (Game 2), Wednesday, 7 p.m.; NBA First Round at Nets (Game 3), April 23, time TBD

Net: NBA First Round at Celtics (Game 1), Sunday, 3:30 p.m.; NBA First Round at Celtics (Game 2), Wednesday, 7 p.m.; NBA First Round vs. Celtics (Game 3), April 23, time TBD

Bruins: Senators, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Penguins, Saturday, 12:30 p.m.; at Blues, Tuesday, 8 p.m.

Rangers: Red Wings, Saturday, 12:30 p.m.; Jets, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; at Islanders, April 21, 7:30 p.m.

Wolf Pack: at Toronto, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Rochester, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Charlotte, April 22, 7 p.m.

Red Sox: Twins, Friday, 2 p.m.; Twins, Saturday, 4 p.m.; Twins, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.

Yankees: Blue Jays, Thursday, 7 p.m.; at Orioles, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Orioles, Saturday, 7 p.m.

Mets: Diamondbacks, Friday, 1 p.m.; Diamondbacks, Saturday, 1 p.m.; Diamondbacks, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.

Yard Goats: at New Hampshire, Thursday, 6:30 p.m.; at New Hampshire, Friday, 6:30 p.m.; at New Hampshire, Saturday, 6:30 p.m.

TV/RADIO
BASEBALL
7 p.m.: Blue Jays at Yankees. (Live) YES. Radio: 97.9.

7 p.m.: Regional Coverage. (Live) MLB
8 p.m.: Auburn at Mississippi State. (Live) SEC

8 p.m.: Kentucky at Missouri. (Live) ESPN
GOLF
3 p.m.: RBC Heritage, First Round. (Live) GOLF

7 p.m.: LOTTE Championship, Second Round. (Live) GOLF
GYMNASTICS
1 p.m.: Women's College: NCAA Championships, Semifinals. (Live) ESPN2

HOCKEY
7 p.m.: Senators at Bruins. (Live) NESN
8 p.m.: Wild at Stars. (Live) ESPN
LACROSSE
8 p.m.: Women's College: North Carolina at Virginia. (Live) ACC

SOFTBALL
8 p.m.: Oregon at Arizona. (Live) ESPN2
VOLLEYBALL
8 p.m.: Athletes Unlimited Volleyball (Live) CBSSN

10 p.m.: Athletes Unlimited Volleyball (Live) CBSSN
WINTER SPORTS
12 p.m.: Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling Players' Championship: Draw 11. (Live) SPRTNET

4 p.m.: Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling Players' Championship: Draw 12. (Live) SPRTNET

METS 9, PHILLIES 6

Scherzer cruises, Alonso drives in 5 as Mets top Phils

Associated Press

innings.

PHILADELPHIA — Max Scherzer finally could pitch with all his strength now that his right hamstring wasn't bothering him anymore.

It took a bit for him to figure that out, but when he did, he looked back to his Cy Young self.

Scherzer settled in after working out of an early jam, Pete Alonso drove in five runs with a homer and two doubles and the New York Mets beat the Philadelphia Phillies 9-6 Wednesday. It took loading the bases in the first for Scherzer (2-0) to recalibrate how to pitch on his right leg again, then he struck out the next batter, induced a groundout and allowed one run and five hits with seven strikeouts in five

innings.

"I just wasn't completely executing every pitch where it needed to be," Scherzer said. "Fortunately enough to be able to walk three in an inning to not have that spiral out of control and give up a bunch of runs in that situation. That really set a tone and allowed our offense to get going."

Alonso and the rest of New York's offense provided more than enough run support for the 37-year-old three-time Cy Young Award winner. Brandon Nimmo hit a solo home run off Aaron Nola in the third inning — the first Mets hit of the afternoon — before the middle of the order teed off in the fourth and fifth.

"We did an excellent job of pouring it on all day," said Alonso, who was again the



The Mets' Pete Alonso celebrates with Starling Marte after hitting a 3-run home run during the sixth inning against the Phillies on Wednesday in Philadelphia. LAURENCE KESTERSON/AP

designated hitter instead of his preference to play first base. "We had excellent at-bats one through nine, and that's what it takes to win these tough, divisional games."

Alonso's first RBI double helped knock Nola out of the game. The right-hander also lost command in the fourth, walking a batter and hitting two more to load the bases and get the hook from manager Joe Girardi. Nola (1-1) allowed three earned runs on three hits in 3 1/3 innings.

The Mets also knocked

around the Phillies bullpen, which went five relievers deep after Nola's short start and with an off day coming up. Alonso drilled a three-run homer run to right-center in the sixth to make it 8-1 and close Scherzer's day after throwing 96 pitches.

"That was a big moment in the game that kind of put us ahead by a bunch, and thankfully that was enough," Alonso said. "Philly has a great offense. They're a great team. They started to come back there. But I feel like coming through like that for the team was huge."

RANGERS LATE TUESDAY

Carolina scores 3 goals in 3rd to upend Rangers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Seth Jarvis and Jordan Staal scored third-period goals and Frederik Andersen made 28 saves as the Carolina Hurricanes beat the New York Rangers 4-2 on Tuesday night in a showdown for first place in the Metropolitan Division.

Chris Kreider scored late for his 50th goal of the season, but Carolina moved four points ahead of second-place New York with eight games remaining in the regular season.

Kreider became the fourth player in Rangers history to reach the plateau. His previous career high was 28 goals.

"It's hard after a game like that," Kreider said. "It's something I appreciate, it's just hard to appreciate it right now."

The Rangers had their three-game winning streak snapped but are 7-2-1 in their last 10. They clinched a playoff berth for the first time since 2017 with a win over Ottawa last Saturday and are 24-8-4 at home.

"The first was real good. In the second they sort of took the momentum away and then they got that early goal in the third," Rangers coach Gerard Gallant said. "Tonight to me was an even game... We learned some lessons."

The Rangers' potent power play went 0 for 4 as the Hurricanes played stout defense when necessary.

"That was the game in a nutshell," Carolina coach Rod Brind'Amour said. "They score on one of those and it's a totally different game."

After the teams traded goals in the second period, Jarvis put the Hurricanes ahead at 1:04 of the third, taking a pass from Sebastian Aho and flipping a backhand past goalie Igor Shesterkin. Aho finished with a goal and two assists. He leads the Hurricanes with 41 assists and 75 points. Shesterkin made 21 saves.

The goal was the 14th of the season for the rookie Jarvis, a first-round draft pick by Carolina in 2020. Former Rangers defenseman Brady Skjei also assisted.

"Everyone knew how big of a game this was," Jarvis said. "Whatever we can do to widen the gap is good."



Red Sox catcher Christian Vazquez, left, and pitcher Hansel Robles celebrate the final out against the Tigers on Wednesday in Detroit. The Red Sox won 9-7. PAUL SANCY/AP

We had chances. But I think overall, the way we finished the road trip — I think halfway through the game yesterday, and today — was a good sign offensively."

The Red Sox did it without Xander Bogaerts, who was given the day off.

"We're just trying to execute our game plan," Bradley said. "And we were able to execute. We were just trying to keep him in the zone and swing at good pitches."

The Red Sox now return to Fenway for Friday's home opener against the Twins, and it couldn't be coming at a better time. The Sox hit .281 with an .831 OPS at home last year, compared with .241 with a .724 OPS on the road.

Ramping up: Josh Taylor (back) will throw a live

batting practice session on Thursday. He will likely throw another this weekend before the Red Sox make a decision on the next step.

"He's moving well. He's throwing the ball well," Cora said. "It's great. He's a big and important piece to our bullpen. He can get lefties and righties out and I'm glad that he's doing well."

Taylor didn't pitch this spring. So, when the Sox do send him out for a rehab assignment, his ramp-up will mirror that of spring training.

Changes to Fenway: The Red Sox announced some changes to Fenway Park for this season, including cashless-only payments, on-field signage, and new video boards.

Cashless-only payments

will help improve the speed of service, the Sox said in making the announcement. Concessions stands throughout the ballpark will only accept credit cards or touchless payments via smartphones.

Through a partnership with Aspiration, the Red Sox have affixed the sponsor's name near the fungo circles on the grass between the warning track and infield. It is the first time in Red Sox history that a sponsor's name will appear on the grass at Fenway.

One of the new video boards will sit directly above 521 Overlook and below the New Balance sign. It measures 62 feet wide and 16 feet tall.

— Julian McWilliams, Boston Globe



The Yankees' Aaron Hicks can't catch a home run by the Blue Jays' Vladimir Guerrero Jr. during the first inning Wednesday in New York. FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

wasn't playing so he will be ready to go and he's come in and really contributed.

"And today set the tone for us offensively with a big first hit."

Hicks' first homer of the season was in the second inning, his first at-bat, off Blue Jays lefty Yusei Kikuchi.

"I didn't know," Hicks said of the 365-footer. "I mean I knew I hit it well, but I didn't think it was gonna go out. I thought maybe I might be able to get off the wall or at least be able to have a sacrifice [fly]."

Instead, it went over the wall and gave the Yankees a 2-0 lead. It was the first time this season the Bombers have scored first in a game.

It's a relief for Hicks after the struggles of the last few years. Since signing a seven-year, \$70 million deal in the spring of 2019, Hicks has played in just 145 games over three seasons because of injuries that included having to have Tommy John surgery and the wrist surgery last season. That has opened the door to questions about his future here.

YANKEES NOTES

Boone says Montgomery 'should be good to go' after taking comebacker to knee

By Kristie Ackert

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Jordan Montgomery was back on the mound Wednesday, three days after taking a comebacker to the side of his left knee and needing to drain the fluid from it. The left-hander threw his regularly scheduled bullpen hours before the Yankees played the Blue Jays at the Stadium.

"He should be good," Aaron Boone said. "I just talked to (pitching coach Matt Blake) actually, before I walked in. He said it went well."

Montgomery, who is scheduled to make his next start on Friday in Baltimore, ran in the outfield and then did pitchers fielding practice covering first base. He didn't run hard, but moved fine.

The lefty was hit in the first inning of Sunday night's loss to the Red Sox. He hobbled off the mound, dropped to the ground and was in obvious pain. Montgomery was able to get back on the mound and finish his night, but was very sore and swollen on Monday.

The Yankees sent him to get

an MRI and CT scan and had fluid drained from the knee.

Rizzo at the top: Anthony Rizzo led off for the Yankees for the first time this season Wednesday night. It's the 66th time in his career he started a game batting first. The lineup change was because Boone wanted to give Giancarlo Stanton a night off.

"Just getting some space in there," Boone said. "Obviously not having G in there tonight. I just spaced out my lefties in the lineup. I like him up there in this matchup."

Stanton played in all five previous games. Boone is trying to be careful as the Yankees start the season with 10 straight games after a spring training that was shortened by the owners' lockout.

"It was maybe going to be the other night but I wanted to push through and just kind of continued to check with him," Boone said. "So it was either going to be the first game or the third game in the series. Definitely wanted him in there last night against the lefty. So just kind of trying to plan out these first 10 games."

Stanton has just eight career at-bats against Toronto's Wednesday night starter Jose Berrios and just one hit.

Rizzo, who has never faced Berrios, is the only infielder without a full day off yet.

"He DH'd, that's kind of like a day off," Boone said with a laugh. Rizzo is the third player Boone's had leading off this season — Josh Donaldson did it four times and DJ LeMahieu once.

Empathy for a manager: Boone felt for Dave Roberts.

Wednesday afternoon, the Dodgers' manager went out to get future Hall of Famer Clayton Kershaw, who took a perfect game through seven innings.

Kershaw threw just 80 pitches at that point.

The left-hander has a no-hitter under his belt, but hasn't thrown a perfect game. Just 23 true perfect games have been thrown in MLB history.

Kershaw was pulled for Dodgers' reliever Alex Vesia, who gave up a hit to newly minted Twin, Gary Sanchez, and then walked Max Kepler.

YANKEES

Hicks, club hope 1st homer is sign of things to come

By Kristie Ackert

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — There has never been a question about Aaron Hicks' talent. So it was no surprise on Tuesday night when the outfielder sent the ball just over the right-field wall for his first home run of the season. Hicks has always had the ability and the power that intrigues the Yankees. It's just been about his ability to stay on the field.

After missing pretty much all of the 2021 season because of a torn ligament sheath in his wrist, Hicks is back to show that he can be a big contributor to this team. So far, Hicks has had a hit in all but one of the Yankees' five games this season, hitting .308/.438/.538 with a .976 OPS.

"I feel like he's still finding his way but that's the good thing about it, he is getting on base," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "He's getting his hits. It's really good to see him go the other way right-handed. That's something that's in his game, especially here. I don't think he felt like he even got it, but he snuck it out of there. So it's nice to see. Obviously, last season was a lost year for him. I know he's really worked hard in the winter, going to play winter ball, but also physically getting himself ready. He played a lot in spring training. He was taking a lot of at-bats even on the days he

wasn't playing so he will be ready to go and he's come in and really contributed.

"And today set the tone for us offensively with a big first hit."

Hicks' first homer of the season was in the second inning, his first at-bat, off Blue Jays lefty Yusei Kikuchi.

"I didn't know," Hicks said of the 365-footer. "I mean I knew I hit it well, but I didn't think it was gonna go out. I thought maybe I might be able to get off the wall or at least be able to have a sacrifice [fly]."

Instead, it went over the wall and gave the Yankees a 2-0 lead. It was the first time this season the Bombers have scored first in a game.

It's a relief for Hicks after the struggles of the last few years. Since signing a seven-year, \$70 million deal in the spring of 2019, Hicks has played in just 145 games over three seasons because of injuries that included having to have Tommy John surgery and the wrist surgery last season. That has opened the door to questions about his future here.

BASEBALL**AMERICAN LEAGUE**

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Tampa Bay	4	1	.800	—	—	4-1	W-1	4-1	0-0
New York	3	2	.600	1	—	3-2	W-1	3-2	0-0
Toronto	3	2	.600	1	—	3-2	L-1	2-1	1-1
Boston	3	3	.500	1 1/2	1/2	3-3	W-2	0-0	3-3
Baltimore	1	4	.200	3	2	1-4	L-1	1-1	0-3
CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Chicago	3	1	.750	—	—	3-1	W-3	1-0	2-1
Cleveland	4	2	.667	—	—	4-2	W-4	0-0	4-2
Kansas City	2	3	.400	1 1/2	1	2-3	L-3	2-2	0-1
Detroit	2	4	.333	2	1 1/2	2-4	L-2	2-4	0-0
Minnesota	2	4	.333	2	1 1/2	2-4	L-2	2-4	0-0
WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Houston	4	2	.667	—	—	4-2	L-1	0-0	4-2
Los Angeles	3	3	.500	1	1/2	3-3	W-2	3-3	0-0
Oakland	2	3	.400	1 1/2	1	2-3	L-1	0-0	2-3
Seattle	2	3	.400	1 1/2	1	2-3	L-3	0-0	2-3
Texas	1	4	.200	2 1/2	2	1-4	L-2	0-2	1-2

BOX SCORES**WASHINGTON 3, ATLANTA 1**

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
C.Hernandez	2	0	0	0	1	.276
Soto rf	4	1	0	1	0	.280
Cruz dh	4	0	0	0	1	.167
Bell 1b	4	1	2	1	0	.346
Franco 3b	4	0	2	1	1	.346
Thomas If	3	0	0	1	0	.158
Escobar ss	4	0	0	0	2	.053
Adams c	3	0	0	0	2	.000
Robles cf	3	0	0	0	1	.000
TOTALS	33	3	7	3	9	
Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Albies 2b	3	0	1	0	0	.250
Olson 1b	4	0	0	0	1	.391
Riley 3b	3	1	2	1	.333	
Ozuna If	4	0	0	0	0	.321
Rosario rf	3	0	0	0	1	.050
Duvall cf	2	0	0	0	2	.240
Swanson ss	3	0	0	0	1	.160
Dickerson dh	1	0	0	0	0	.000
a-Heredia ph-dh	0	0	0	1	.143	
Pina c	3	0	0	0	1	.000
TOTALS	27	1	3	1	8	
Washington	200	001	000	—	3	7
Atlanta	200	001	000	—	1	3

a-struck out for Dickerson in the 8th.

E: Duvall (1). LOB: Washington 4, Atlanta 3. 2B: Bell (1).

HR: Riley (2), off Finnegan.

RBIs: Bell (6), Franco (7), Thomas (4), Riley (5). CS: Albies (1). SF: Thomas.

Runners left in scoring position: Washington 3(Thomas, Escobar, Soto); Atlanta 1(Pina). RISP: Washington 2(9, Atlanta 0(1). Runners moved up: Bell, Thomas. GIDP: Ozuna, Olson.

DP: Washington 2(C.Hernandez, Escobar, Bell; C.Hernandez, Bell).

WASHINGON IP H R ER BB SO ERA

Gray, W-1	5	1	0	0	3	5	4.00
Finnegan, H-1	1	1	1	0	0	3	2.70
Doolittle 6-5	2	0	0	0	1	0.00	
Cishiek, H-1	1	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Rainey, S-2,2	1	0	0	0	0	1	.13.50

Pitches-Strikes: Gray 82-50; Finnegan 17-14; Doolittle 6-5; Cishiek 6-5; Rainey 17-11; Doolittle 4-5; Cishiek 6-5; Minter 14-10; Matzek 17-12; Jansen 13-9.

Batters Faced: Fried 3; McHugh 2;

Minter 3; Matzek 3; Jansen 3; Gray 18; Finnegan 4; Doolittle 3; Cishiek 3; Rainey 3.

Inherited runners-scored: McHugh 2-1.

HBP: Gray (Duvall). WP: Fried(2).

PB: Pina (1).

Umpires: Home, D.J. Reyburn; First, Mark Carlson; Second, Angel Hernandez; Third, Jim Wolf.

T: 2:57. A: 31,959(41,084).

ATLANTA IP H R ER BB SO ERA

Fried, L-0,2	5/6	7	3	2	0	4	5.73
McHugh	2/3	0	0	0	1	2.70	
Minter	1	0	0	0	3	3.38	
Matzek	1	0	0	0	0	1.00	
Jansen	1	0	0	0	0	1.00	

Pitches-Strikes: Gray 82-50; Finnegan 17-14; Doolittle 6-5; Cishiek 6-5; Rainey 17-11; Fried 6-5; HBP: McHugh 6-5; Minter 14-10; Matzek 17-12; Jansen 13-9.

Batters Faced: Fried 3; McHugh 2;

Minter 3; Matzek 3; Jansen 3; Gray 18; Finnegan 4; Doolittle 3; Cishiek 3; Rainey 3.

Inherited runners-scored: Fried 2-0.

Peters, W-2,0: WP: Peters.

Umpires: Home, Mark Wegner; First, Alan Porter; Second, Quinn Wolcott;

Third, Jeremie Rehak; T: 2:49. A: 9,122(38,747).

LATE TUESDAY:**L.A. ANGELS 4, MIAMI 3**

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Soler dh	4	0	0	0	2	.158
MoJas ss	5	0	0	0	1	.000
Cooper 1b	4	1	0	0	1	.211
De La Cruz If	1	0	1	0	0	.000
a-Wende ph-3b1	0	1	0	0	0	.455
Sanchez cf	4	0	0	0	2	.125
Anderson rf	3	0	0	0	2	.133
Stallings c	3	0	0	0	1	.133
Berti 3b-If	2	1	0	0	0	.500
Chisholm Jr. 2b-1	1	1	2	1	.308	
TOTALS	31	3	5	2	8	
L.A. Angels	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Ohtani dh	4	0	1	0	3	.160
Trotz cf	2	2	0	0	2	.200
Rendon 3b	4	1	1	2	1	.375
Mayfield 2b	3	0	1	1	1	.444
1-Wade pr	0	1	0	0	0	.231
Stassi 1,2	3	1	0	1	4	.000

Pitches-Strikes: Ohtani 27-18; Trotz 48-24; Rendon 27-18; Mayfield 18-12; 1-Wade 10-6; Stassi 10-4.

Batters Faced: Ohtani 2; Trotz 1; Mayfield 1; 1-Wade 1; Stassi 1.

HR: Ohtani 1, off Vazquez; Trotz 1, off Brash.

RBIs: Ohtani (1), Winker (1), Anderson (1), Robert (2), Jimenez (6).

SB: Robert (2).

Runners left in scoring position: Seattle 5(Haniger 3, Winker, Kelenic); Chicago 2(Robert, Jimenez, Anderson). RISP: Seattle 1(For 8; Chicago 0(6. Runners moved up: Winker. LIDP: Robert. DP: Seattle 1(Crawford, Riker, Crawford, Riker).

GIDP: Sanchez, DP: Los Angeles 1(Rendon, Vazquez, Duffy).

MIAMI IP H R ER BB SO ERA

Carter

from Page 1

pion Rams: A smaller number of base plays with a lot going on to disguise them. The "pro spread" is ideal for a versatile back like the 5-foot-9, 196-pound Carter.

"God is at the head of my life," Carter said. "I always have the mindset of serving. Me being able to use my gift to serve my team, my coaches, my teammates, that's what drives me. Whatever my team needs me to do, just put me in the best position to serve so we can win games."

Charlton was most impressed with was the film of UConn's lone win over Yale. Though Carter had only 39 yards on 17 carries, it was apparent he was playing hurt.

"You could see on film he was banged up, but he powered through it," Charlton said. "He is, like, our type of guy. He is what

a UConn football player should be. He's tough, he's physical, he's about it, here every day. At the end of the day, he's a player you want to coach. There are gifts there, he has talent, but we need players who are about our culture."

As the head coach at Maine, Charlton, recruited the Rochester, New York, area when Carter was captain and top runner for Bishop Kearney High. An honor student, Carter enrolled early at UConn. In February 2020 at 17, he was turning heads with his sheer speed before the COVID-19 pandemic shut things down. After the canceled 2020 season and the coaching change in early 2021, Carter pushed into the backfield, supplanting Kevin Mensah, one of the leading rushers in program history.

Through thin and thinner, Carter stuck with the program. Now he sees better days.

"There's definitely a new vibe

here, a new culture," Carter said. "The first thing [Mora] said coming in is, 'It's all about the players.' That mindset really inspired all of us. 'Okay, we have coaches that care about us, coaches that want to be here and want to win.' And they're going to push us and coach us to win. Having that confidence, not only ourselves but in those coaches makes us want to play better. Not only just to win games but play better for them because of all the effort they're putting into us."

Running backs coach E.J. Barthel has been pushing Carter on understanding the position and his role in the Huskies' offense. Details like using his eyes to make the right reads, catching, blocking, picking up the blitz.

"I'm going to be better with the mental part of my game," Carter said. "Understanding the schemes, the mental part of my position. Coach E.J. is really pushing

me to get to that elite level. I need that pushing. If I want to get to a level I want to get to, I need a coach to push me."

Coming off a 1-11 season, which followed several seasons that looked just like it, UConn should not, and does not, have positions settled in the spring. The running backs room has several newcomers, but Carter is ahead of the field with the spring scrimmage coming up on April 21.

"He can do a lot of things," Charlton said. "Nate's stepped up, played multiple roles for us. We're doing a lot of two-back stuff right now. In our one-back stuff, he's getting the ball a lot, and he's doing great things with the ball. He has some pretty natural pass-catching skills as well. The more skills you have, the more value you have. It's harder to take you off the field."

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com

UConn

from Page 1

Texas A&M on him hard. Clemson. Gonzaga was calling him every single day."

Off the court Newton is a stellar student.

"He was in our honors program here in high school," Gutierrez said. "Since his freshman year, he was taking advanced courses. That way he could graduate with an associate's degree at the end of high school. He's highly intelligent."

Meanwhile Akok's departure was confirmed by a UConn source on Wednesday. The junior has two years of eligibility remaining.

The junior has two years of eligibility remaining.

This marks the second Huskies player to enter the portal this week. Guard Corey Floyd Jr. entered on Tuesday and Jalen Gaffney and Rahsoul Diggins previously announced they were leaving.

In addition, UConn will be without guards R.J. Cole and Tyrese Martin, who announced plans to turn pro.

Even with Newton's addition, UConn now has five open scholarship spots available for the 2022-23 season. Unlike last year, UConn coach Dan Hurley intends to use the transfer portal to fill in roster spots.



East Carolina guard Tristen Newton brings the ball up the court against Houston during a Jan. 22 game in Houston. Newton is transferring to UConn. JUSTIN REX/AP

Newton joins Andre Jackson, Andrew Hurley and Jordan Hawkins as guards on the roster. UConn still appears to be active in the transfer portal.

According to CBS's Jon Rothstein, the Huskies have shown interest in Texas transfer Courtney Ramey and former South Carolina guard Devin Carter.

Akok played three seasons

at UConn but saw his minutes dwindle this year. He averaged 3.4 points and 3.2 rebounds, struggling to return to form after tearing his Achilles tendon during the 2019-20 season.

The former five-star recruit came to UConn after 2 1/2 years at Putnam Science Academy.

Sam Vecenie, a senior college basketball writer for The Athletic,

felt the injury changed Akok's college career trajectory.

"The injury robbed him of a bit of athletic pop particularly laterally that he had at the lower levels," he said. "It's a huge bummer."

Shreyas Laddha can be reached at sladdha@courant.com or at [@shre98](https://twitter.com/shre98) on Twitter.



To keep the UConn men's basketball program moving upward, coach Dan Hurley will have to adapt to a new reality in college basketball: a transfer portal with heavy traffic in both directions. FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

fashionable, a wave of players defected from Kevin Ollie's roster. That was a culture problem and Ollie never recovered from it. UConn's patchwork team was 14-18 the next year and it came Hurley to rebuild from the ground up. He has laid out a year-by-year blueprint of what the rebuild would look like and has generally delivered on schedule. But then an offseason like this between Years 4 and Year 5 couldn't have been on his card. Remember, no players left during his first 2 1/2 years on the job.

But everything is a different in 2022 with transfers no longer having to sit out a year. Since no one goes to college to sit on the bench, players who don't play or don't like their role, are going to bail. And when a coach searches for talent in the portal, the players he has will see the writing on the wall and look for the exit. With the backlog of players getting the extra year

due to COVID it has been even harder for young players, such as UConn's freshmen last season, to stay patient.

Assuming there are no further departures, UConn's needle still points toward order not chaos. It was no surprise when Diggins, Gaffney or Akok left. Their playing time last season indicated they didn't have futures at UConn. Floyd, who reclassified and enrolled at UConn in lieu of a senior year in high school, redshirted as expected and would have gotten the chance to earn minutes next season if he stayed.

The other departures, Isaiah Whaley and Tyler Polley, whose eligibility ran out, and R.J. Cole and Tyrese Martin, who put in their four years or more and decided not to come back for the extra year, were anticipated, and planned for.

So where does it leave the Huskies? With junior Andre Jackson, sophomore Jordan

Hawkins and Newton in the backcourt; junior Adama Sanogo, sophomore Samson Johnson, redshirt junior Richie Springs and freshmen Donovan Clingan and Alex Karaban in the front court and five scholarships to offer, four if Class of 2023 incoming guard Stephon Castle decides to reclassify to 2022. Hurley would like to add two more players who can help immediately, and with more than 1,300 in the portal, it's become a bit like eBay. You can find almost any type of player you want or need.

Hurley wanted a big point guard who can score and he landed the 6-foot-5 Newton, who averaged 17.7 points, 5.0 assists and 4.8 rebounds for East Carolina, and had a 25-point game against UConn two years ago.

"I'm going to get this team and program so much better," Hurley said. "We're going to continue to get better seeds in the NCAA Tournament. We've got a core of big-time players in Adama, Andre, Jordan, Tristen coming in, the best perimeter group, when the ball goes up, we've ever had, with some outstanding front court players. We're in a great place."

Hurley has laid out his plans to play with four scorers around a big man, and a bench that will allow him to play eight or nine. But beware the portal. In this new world, missteps in the transfer market can derail a season and it doesn't take much to push a program with UConn-sized expectations across the thin line into chaos.

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GOLF TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP**Koepka returning to play**

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

Brooks Koepka, winner of four majors on the PGA Tour, is returning to Connecticut to play in the Travelers Championship in June.

"Brooks has played our event for several years now and he has been so supportive of what we are doing to deliver a world-class tournament that means so much for charity and our community," said Andy Bessette, executive VP and chief administrative officer at Travelers. "He has consistently been one of the tour's, and he has a chance to win any time he tees it up. We're looking forward to seeing Brooks compete here again this summer."

Koepka joins Masters champion Scottie Scheffler, Patrick Cantlay, Justin Thomas, Dustin Johnson, Rory McIlroy, Xander Schauffele and Bubba Watson in committing to play at the Travelers, June 20-26 at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell with spectators returning June 22.

Koepka, 31, has won eight PGA events, including the U.S. Open in 2017 and '18, and the PGA Championship in 2018 and '19, the first golfer ever to hold back-to-back titles in two majors simultaneously. The player of the year in 2018, Koepka was fifth at the Travelers in 2021, finishing 10-under for the tournament. His most recent PGA Tour win was at the Waste Management Phoenix Open in 2021.

"This commitment by Brooks gives us another top player coming here in June," Travelers tournament director Nathan Grube said. "His involvement helps position the Travelers Championship as a can't-miss event. I'm really excited for our fans, who will get a chance to watch him take on a field that's loaded with competition."

NBA PLAYOFFS**In matchup with Nets, Celtics are getting just what they wanted**

By Mark Murphy
Boston Herald

BOSTON — Unlike some teams — that city two hours north of Chicago comes to mind — the Celtics are about to get what they wanted.

By going with its full lineup during Sunday's seed-clinching win over Memphis, Boston is set up for a first-round series against a Brooklyn team that continues to strike fear in the rest of the Eastern Conference.

And starting with Game 1 on Sunday in the Garden, the Celtics get to back up their aspirations.

"I wouldn't say we have an underdog mentality going into it. We know who we are and what we've been the last few months," Ime Udoka said after Wednesday's practice. "Overall No. 1 team offensively and defensively in a lot of categories, so the focus toward the end of the season was more health and learning about ourselves than the opponent."

"That's how we approached it. Keep doing what we were doing and at the same time get a run in, like we did against Memphis."

"We weren't running from anybody; we were looking at ourselves the whole time. In order to win, you have to win against really good teams at some point, so that was our approach to it."

Nets swingman Bruce Brown lit a small brush fire when he noted, following Brooklyn's play-in win over Cleveland, that the Celtics were more vulnerable to penetration with Rob Williams temporarily out of the mix.

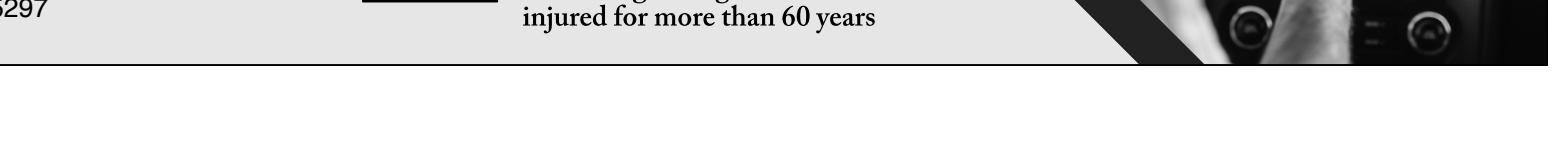
Did you know?

One out of every four car accidents is caused by driving and texting at the same time.

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SCOREBOARD

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC GP W L OT PTS GF GA

x-Florida 73 52 15 6 110 305 216

x-Toronto 73 47 20 6 108 279 226

Tampa Bay 73 44 21 8 95 239 205

Boston 73 45 23 5 95 229 199

Detroit 73 28 35 10 66 210 281

Buffalo 75 27 37 11 65 208 266

Ottawa 73 27 40 6 60 197 237

Montreal 73 20 42 11 51 192 279

METRO GP W L OT PTS GF GA

x-Carolina 74 48 18 8 104 247 177

x-N.Y. Rangers 74 47 21 6 100 227 191

Pittsburgh 75 42 22 11 95 247 210

Washington 73 41 22 10 92 249 212

N.Y. Islanders 72 34 29 9 77 200 200

Columbus 73 34 33 6 74 235 273

New Jersey 73 26 41 6 58 227 271

Philadelphia 73 23 39 11 57 190 265

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL GP W L OT PTS GF GA

x-Colorado 72 52 14 6 110 275 198

Minnesota 72 45 21 6 96 268 223

St. Louis 73 43 20 10 96 268 209

Nashville 73 42 26 5 88 237 210

Dallas 73 42 27 4 88 215 217

Winnipeg 74 35 28 11 81 230 232

Chicago 73 24 38 11 59 194 260

Arizona 73 22 46 5 49 181 271

PACIFIC GP W L OT PTS GF GA

Calgary 73 45 19 9 95 258 181

Edmonton 74 42 26 6 98 256 235

Los Angeles 75 39 26 10 88 217 216

Vegas 74 40 29 5 85 238 221

Vancouver 74 36 28 10 82 217 210

Anaheim 75 29 33 11 71 210 245

San Jose 72 29 33 10 68 186 229

Seattle 73 23 44 6 52 189 255

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

z-clinched conference

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Montreal at Columbus, late

N.Y. Rangers at Philadelphia, late

Los Angeles at Colorado, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Anaheim at Tampa Bay, 7p.m.

Detroit at Carolina, 7p.m.

N.Y. Islanders at Pittsburgh, 7p.m.

Ottawa at Boston, 7p.m.

St. Louis at Buffalo, 7p.m.

Washington at Toronto, 7p.m.

Edmonton at Nashville, 8p.m.

Minnesota at Dallas, 8p.m.

San Jose at Chicago, 8:30p.m.

New Jersey at Colorado, 9p.m.

Vegas at Calgary, 9p.m.

Arizona at Vancouver, 10p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES

N.Y. Islanders at Montreal, 7p.m.

Winnipeg at Florida, 7p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Buffalo 5, Toronto 2

Carolina 4, N.Y. Rangers 2

Washington 9, Philadelphia 2

Florida 3, Anahiem 2, OT

St. Louis 4, Boston 2

Ottawa 4, Detroit 1

N.Y. Islanders 5, Pittsburgh 4(SO)

Minnesota 5, Edmonton 1

Nashville 1, San Jose 0(OT)

Los Angeles 5, Chicago 2

Calgary 5, Seattle 3

Dallas 1, Tampa Bay 0

New Jersey 6, Arizona 2

Vancouver 5, Vegas 4(OT)

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

GOALS

TM GP G A

Auston Matthews TOR 68 58 41

Leon Draisaitl EDM 73 51 51

Chris Kreider NYR 74 50 21

Alex Ovechkin WSH 71 46 39

Kyle Connor WPG 71 42 43

Kirill Kaprizov MIN 71 42 49

Connor McDavid EDM 73 42 66

Alex DeBrincat CHI 73 39 28

Matt Duchene NSH 69 38 37

Filip Forsberg NSH 60 38 34

Elias Lindholm CGY 73 38 36

David Pastrnak BOS 68 38 33

Matthew Tkachuk CGY 73 37 55

ASSISTS

TM GP A/A/G

Jon. Huberdeau FLA 73 77 1.05

Roman Josi NSH 71 68 0.96

Johnny Gaudreau CGY 73 67 0.92

Artemi Panarin NYR 67 0.97

Connor McDavid EDM 73 66 0.90

Patrick Kane CHI 69 60 0.87

Mitch Marner TOR 64 59 0.92

Adam Fox NYR 71 57 0.80

Nazem Kadri COL 65 57 0.88

J.T. Miller VAN 72 57 0.79

Kris Letang PIT 71 55 0.77

Matthew Tkachuk CGY 73 55 0.75

Morgan Rielly TOR 73 53 0.73

Cale Makar COL 68 52 0.76

Leon Draisaitl EDM 73 51 0.70

Nathan MacKinnon COL 56 51 0.91

Mikko Rantanen COL 69 51 0.74

POINTS

TM GP PT PPG

Connor McDavid EDM 73 108 1.48

Jon. Huberdeau FLA 73 105 1.44

Leon Draisaitl EDM 73 102 1.40

Johnny Gaudreau CGY 73 101 1.38

Auston Matthews TOR 68 99 1.46

Matthew Tkachuk CGY 73 92 1.26

Kirill Kaprizov MIN 71 91 1.28

Mitch Marner TOR 64 90 1.41

Artemi Panarin NYR 68 88 1.28

Roman Josi NSH 71 87 1.23

J.T. Miller VAN 72 86 1.19

Mikko Rantanen COL 69 86 1.25

Kyle Connor WPG 71 85 1.20

Nazem Kadri COL 65 83 1.28

Patrick Kane CHI 69 83 1.20

SHOTS

TM G S S/G

Auston Matthews TOR 58 324 4.76

Alex Ovechkin WSH 46 312 4.39

David Pastrnak BOS 38 304 4.41

Connor McDavid EDM 42 296 4.05

Kyle Connor WPG 42 290 4.08

through Tuesday

ODDS

MLB THURSDAY

NATIONAL LEAGUE

FAVORITE LINE UNDERDOG LINE

at Milwaukee -150 St. Louis +129

at Pittsburgh -121 Washington +101

at Miami -114 Philadelphia -106

Atlanta off at San Diego off

at Colorado -136 Chi. Cubs +116

at LA Dodgers -249 Cincinnati +204

at Tampa Bay -200 Oakland +173

Seattle -112 at Chi. Wh. Sox -108

at NY Yankees -133 Toronto +113

LA Angels -129 at Texas +109

at Kansas City -125 Detroit +105

NBA PLAYOFFS SATURDAY

FAVORITE LINE UNDERDOG LINE

Utah 4 (214) at Dallas

at Memphis 6½ (234½) Minnesota

at Philadelphia 4½ (216½) at Toronto

at Golden State 5 (223) Denver

NHL THURSDAY

FAVORITE LINE UNDERDOG LINE

at Toronto -160 Washington +132

at Boston -295 Ottawa +235

at Carolina -430 Detroit +320

at Tampa Bay -430 Anahiem +330

at St. Louis -240 Buffalo +195

at Pittsburgh -170 NY Islanders +140

at Nashville -118 Edmonton -102

at Dallas -118 Minnesota -102

at Chicago -125 San Jose +104

at Colorado -300 New Jersey +240

at Calgary -154 Vegas +128

at Vancouver -255 Arizona +205

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FanDuel Sportsbook,

https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

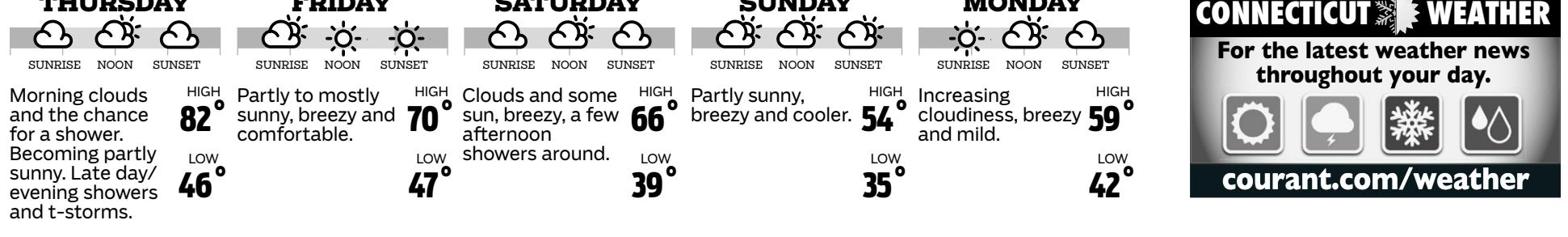
FOOTBALL

ODDS TO WIN NFL SEASON TITLE

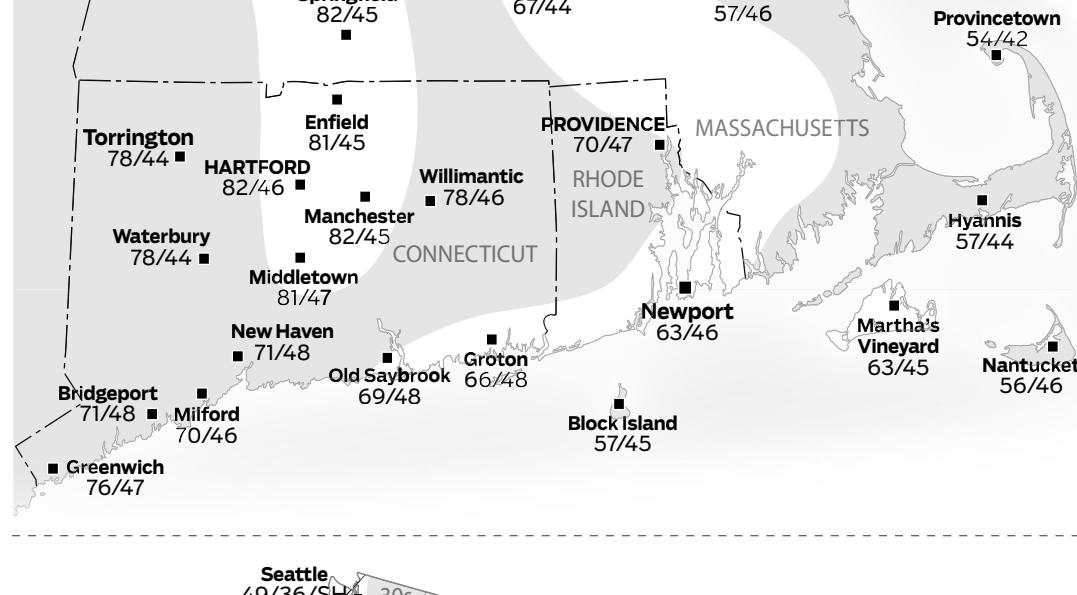
Michigan 9-2 Tampa Bay 9-2

New Orleans 11-2 Philadelphia 11-2

WEATHER



YOURCAST



AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND		Baltimore		Nashville		San Juan		Budapest		Kingston			
Bangor	48 36 SH			74 43 PC		69 41 PC		86 74 SH		90 77 PC			
Burlington	63 38 SH			Bismarck	29 15 SN	New Orleans	79 63 T	Tucson	69 41 S	Lisbon	70 52 PC		
Caribou	48 35 SH			Boise	45 29 I	New York	81 49		Budapest	70 41 S	Sydney	75 57 SH	
Concord	54 36 SH			Buffalo	56 40 PC	Okla. City	72 52 S		London	72 48 S	Tel Aviv	66 48 PC	
Montpelier	56 33 SH			Charleston	83 64 C	Omaha	55 28		Buenos Aires	72 50 PC	Mexico City	59 48 R	
Mt. Wash.	48 24 SH			Cincinnati	63 40 PC	Orlando	89 68 PC		Cairo	75 53 S	Toronto	55 39 SH	
Portland	46 38 SH			Cleveland	58 44 PC	Pittsburgh	59 39 PC		Cancun	87 76 PC	Vancouver	50 37 PC	
Woods Hole	63 44 PC			Indianapolis	63 41 PC	Raleigh	83 54 C		Dubai	100 79 PC	Moscow	52 36 R	
				Jacksonville	84 64 PC	St. Louis	66 47 PC		Dublin	61 50 PC	Nassau	81 70 SH	
						Beijing	70 46 C		Edinburgh	54 45 C	New Delhi	102 75 PC	
						Beirut	69 53 PC		Helsinki	41 28 SH	Paris	68 50 S	
									Hong Kong	86 72 S	Prague	68 48 SH	
									Istanbul	59 45 PC	Rio de Janeiro	82 64 T	
									Jerusalem	70 48 S	Rome	73 50 C	
										Seoul	61 45 R	Singapore	91 75 T

TUESDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULT

BASEBALL

CCC
BACON ACADEMY 14, GRISWOLD 1
 BA 022-64-14-14-2
 G 010-0-1-5-0

WP: Chris Luisignani. **LP:** AJ Hamel. **Rec:** BA-4-0; G-2-2. **Note:** Jack Novak was 3-for-4 with 3RBI, Andrew Navickas had 2hits, 5RBI and Steven Laliberte had 3hits for Bacon.

WEDNESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BASEBALL

CCC-South
MIDDLETON 9, PLAINVILLE 2
PLATT 18, LEWIS MILLS 10
CCC-East

EAST HARTFORD 6, SOUTH WINDSOR 5 (8)

SW 012-000-20-5-5-4

EH 040-100-01-6-6-4

WP: Kacin Robinson. **LP:** Benjamin Balducci. **Rec:** SW-0-4; EH-1-2.

CCC-West

HALL 7, CONARD 4

CCC-Inter

AVON 7, BRISTOL CENTRAL 4

E.O. SMITH 6, NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 1

EAST CATHOLIC 6, NEW BRITAIN 1

MANCHESTER 8, WETHERSFIELD 2

RHAM 5, SIMSBURY 1

BRISTOL EASTERN 14, TOLLAND 4

SOUTHBURY 5, BERLIN 3

NCCC

COVENTRY 8, ROCKVILLE 6

R 032-001-0-6-7-0

C 202-400-x-8-13-2

WP: Aidan Hecht. **LP:** Tiernan Doyle. **Rec:** C-2-2; R-1-3. **Note:** Hecht allowed 4hits, 2 earned runs and struck out 6in five innnings of relief. Evan Menzel was 3-for-4with 4RBI and Nate Cordiner was 2-for-3with a double, 3RBI.

CANTON 9, SUFFIELD 2

S 101-000-0-2-6-0

C 112-320-x-9-13-2

WP: Devin Brown. **LP:** Nick Gomes. **Rec:** C-5-0; S-1-2. **Note:** Brown and Shane LaPointe both had 3hits, 2RBI, 2runs scored for Canton. Brown also had 10strikeouts. Matt Sinosky had a double, 2runs scored for Suffield.

STAFFORD 15, EAST GRANBY 13 (8)

ELLINGTON 12, GRANBY 6

SOMERS 13, BOLTON 3 (5)

Shoreline

HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH 5, OLD LYME 4

OL 010-012-0-4-8-2

WP: Callen Powers. **LP:** Santiago Rodriguez. **Rec:** HK-3-2; OL-2-2. **Note:** Powers struck out 6in his first win of the season. Nick Glynn and Ryan Erskine each had 2hits, RBI for H-K. Rodriguez and Casey Hurtgen each had 2hits and struck out 13in a complete game effort.

OLD SAYBROOK 3, MORGAN 1

VALLEY REGIONAL 25, WESTBROOK 1

CROMWELL 6, COGINCHAUG 5

HALE-RAY 12, EAST HAMPTON 3

CTC

GOODWIN TECH 13, PRINCE TECH 0

CHENY TECH 15, VINAL TECH 5

WILCOX TECH 14, O'BRIEN TECH 4

ELLIS TECH 5, WINDHAM TECH 2

SCC

HAND 7, WEST HAVEN 5

LYMAN HALL 6, NOTRE DAME-WEST HAVEN 5

CHESHIRE 7, SHEEHAN 2

NVL

ST. PAUL 15, OXFORD 5

Others

BLOOMFIELD CO-OP 9, INNOVATION 7

I 010-320-1-x-7-5-1

B 002-051-x-9-10-0

WP: Martin Aponte. **LP:** Adam Renta. **Rec:** B-2-2; I-0-3.

SOFTBALL

CCC-East

ENFIELD 3, SOUTH WINDSOR 2

SW 000-000-2-2-3-1

E 200-100-x-3-7-1

WP: Tiffany Lubanski. **LP:** Gabby Ryan. **Rec:** E-2-; SW-. **Note:** Lubanski had 12strikeouts. Taylor Lathrop was 2-for-3with a run scored and

GIRLS SOFTBALL

CCC-Inter

MORGAN 12, VALLEY REGIONAL 10

SCC

XAVIER 17, NORTH HAVEN 8

GIRLS SOFTBALL

CCC-Inter

SOUTH WINDSOR 14, NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 4

GIRLS SOFTBALL

TUESDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULT

BASEBALL

CCC

BACON ACADEMY 14, GRISWOLD 1

BA 022-64-14-14-2

G 010-0-1-5-0

WP: Chris Luisignani. **LP:** AJ Hamel. **Rec:** BA-4-0; G-2-2. **Note:** Jack Novak was 3-for-4with 3RBI, Andrew Navickas had 2hits, 5RBI and Steven Laliberte had 3hits for Bacon.

WEDNESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

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CCC-South

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PLATT 18, LEWIS MILLS 10

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SW 012-000-20-5-5-4

EH 040-100-01-6-6-4

WP: Kacin Robinson. **LP:** Benjamin Balducci. **Rec:** SW-0-4; EH-1-2.

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E.O. SMITH 6, NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 1

EAST CATHOLIC 6, NEW BRITAIN 1

MANCHESTER 8, WETHERSFIELD 2

RHAM 5, SIMSBURY 1

BRISTOL EASTERN 14, TOLLAND 4

SOUTHBURY 5, BERLIN 3

NCCC

COVENTRY 8, ROCKVILLE 6

Hartford Courant

FLAVOR

LIVING

A sweet Ramadan ritual

Qatayef taste best for 1 month out of every year

By Reem Kassis
The New York Times

Mohammad Ahmed Mattour has been running Halawiyat Al-Bustan, one of the most famous pastry shops in Ramallah, in the West Bank, since he took it over from his father in 1994. Giant platters of desserts, from baklava and knafeh to basbousa and kullaj, line the windows and shelves year-round. But come Ramadan, the balance of business shifts, and qatayef, stuffed semolina pancakes, take center stage.

"We sell about 200 a day," said Mattour, 43. "Not pieces. Kilos." Throughout the month, especially near the hour of iftar — the breaking of the daily fast — the line outside the shop spills into the street, with at least 30 people waiting at any given moment.

Mattour's shop is not alone: The scene is the same at other pastry shops across Ramallah and cities throughout the Arab world.

Today, there are two common varieties of these pancakes, which are cooked only on one side. One is stuffed with either cheese or walnuts, folded into a half-moon, then fried or baked and soaked in syrup. The other, smaller in size, is stuffed with cream and only half sealed. It's then drizzled with a thick sugar syrup and eaten fresh.

People usually purchase the pancakes to take home and stuff, but it's also possible to buy them stuffed and ready to fry or bake, or even stuffed, fried, soaked in syrup and ready to eat.

What really sets qatayef apart from other desserts is the fact that they are a treat usually reserved for Ramadan, which began April 2, and are a sign the holy month has arrived.

"They just taste different in Ramadan," said Eman Al-Ahmed, a fashion designer who lives in Jordan.

Al-Ahmed, 47, makes her qatayef at home and explained that she could prepare them throughout the year, given how easy they are to make. But like most in the Arab world, she and her family eat qatayef only during Ramadan, and they do so every single night of the month.

"Perhaps it's the nostalgia and the generationslong



A tray of qatayef, the stuffed semolina pancakes that are a traditional staple during the holy month of Ramadan. DAVID MALOSH/THE NEW YORK TIMES

QATAYEF ASAFIRI

Makes: About 30 pieces

Total time: 45 minutes

For the syrup:

½ cup granulated sugar
A squeeze of fresh lemon juice
1 teaspoon orange blossom water or rose water, or a combination

For the batter:

1 cup all-purpose flour
¼ cup fine semolina flour
1 tablespoon granulated sugar
½ teaspoon instant or quick-rise yeast

½ teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon baking soda
¼ teaspoon ground mahlab (optional, see note)
½ teaspoon orange blossom water or rose water (optional)

For the filling:

1 cup mascarpone
½ cup heavy cream
3 tablespoons confectioners' sugar
1 teaspoon orange blossom water or

rose water, or a combination
¼ cup finely ground unroasted, unsalted pistachios, preferably Turkish, for finishing

1. Prepare the syrup: In a small saucepan, combine the sugar, lemon juice and ¼ cup water. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Lower heat and simmer until slightly thickened, about 5 minutes. Set aside to cool completely, then stir in ½ teaspoon orange blossom water and ½ teaspoon rose water.

2. Make the batter: Add 1 ¼ cups plus 2 tablespoons water to a blender or food processor. Add all the batter ingredients and process until smooth. The batter should be quite loose, similar to heavy cream in consistency. Set aside to rest for 15 minutes.

3. Meanwhile, prepare the filling: Place the mascarpone, heavy cream, confectioners' sugar, ½ teaspoon orange blossom water and ½ teaspoon rose water in a small bowl. Use a handheld electric mixer to

whip into stiff peaks. Refrigerate until ready to use.

4. Cook the qatayef: Place a medium nonstick skillet or griddle over medium heat until hot. Mix batter to ensure it is smooth, then pour separate 1-tablespoon portions of batter into the pan, fitting about 4 circles. Cook qatayef until entire surface is covered in small bubbles and the center loses its sheen, 30 to 45 seconds. (You might be able to cook off more at a time once you've determined the right temperature and consistency of the batter.) If the bubbles are large and sparse, then your batter is too thick; stir 1 tablespoon of water into the batter to thin. Qatayef cook only on one side; the base should be uniformly golden and the top covered in small bubbles. If the disks brown too quickly — or unevenly — underneath before the batter loses its sheen on top, lower the heat slightly.

5. Transfer each cooked qatayef to a

large tray lined with a dish towel and cover with another dish towel while you cook the remaining batter.

6. Fill the qatayef: Fold each into a half-moon, bubble side on the inside, and pinch to seal the edges together halfway. Using a teaspoon or a piping bag, fill the opening with the cream, then dip the exposed cream filling into the ground pistachios.

7. Arrange filled qatayef on serving platter. These can be covered in plastic wrap and refrigerated for several hours until ready to serve. To serve, drizzle cooled syrup over the qatayef and offer guests more syrup to add to their individual plates.

Note: Mahlab, the kernel found inside the pit of a cherry, adds a floral and nutty aroma to sweets and gives Arabic cheese its distinct flavor. It is available whole or ground from Middle Eastern grocery stores, but goes rancid quickly, so buy it whole and grind it as needed, storing the rest in the freezer until needed.

tradition," Al-Ahmed said. "But qatayef are this ritual that brings everyone in the community together."

The tradition is just as

strong for Arabs in the United States.

Rawan Shatara, 34, a pastry chef in Grand Rapids, Michigan, who

emigrated from Jordan as a toddler, used to make the two-hour drive to Dearborn with her parents several times during Rama-

dan to buy qatayef. "It's such an ingrained part of the month," she said.

Now, she makes qatayef herself, but she still likes

to make the trip to Dearborn, where, she said, "you really feel the atmosphere of Ramadan, just like being back home."

Make your own brown sugar glaze for Easter ham

By Meghan Splawn
Thekitchn.com

Do you have ham on your Easter menu? Of course you do! Ham is one of the essential centerpieces for a holiday table full of asparagus, glazed carrots and

brightly colored Easter eggs. What we think of as "Easter ham" is actually a spiral-cut city ham, and many of them are sold packaged with their own glaze. But you can — and should — make your own brown sugar glaze for your

city ham.

This glaze isn't sugary-sweet, but it has the most delicious balance of brown sugar, honey, Dijon and just a splash of vinegar.

It will transform your Easter ham from basic to the most-talked-about dish

at your celebration.

How to use this brown sugar glaze

Brown sugar glaze is most ideal for a ham you to plan to warm in the oven. Most city hams should be reheated in a 275- to

350-degree oven for 1 ½ to 2 ½ hours depending on its size.

You'll start the ham covered in the oven and then add the glaze during the second half of cooking. The glaze is cooked down before it goes on the

ham, but it will continue to thicken as it mingles with the ham's juices.

A cheat sheet for cooking city ham

■ At 275 degrees: Bake

■ Turn to Glaze, Page 2

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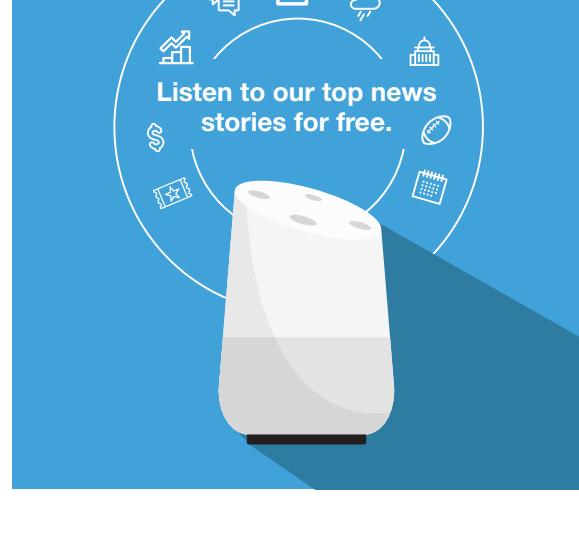
Orlando Sentinel

Daily Press

The Virginian-Pilot

Sun Sentinel

Tribune Publishing Company





Ultimate Passover dessert

By Jessie Sheehan
TheKitchn.com

Considering I'm the co-author of an entire icebox cake cookbook, it's safe to say I'm a big fan of the no-bake treat. And because Passover is almost upon us, I wondered what it might be like to replace cookies with matzos in order to create a seder-worthy version.

A little Googling revealed that when folks create cakes from sheets of matzos, they often dip each sheet in either wine or grape juice before assembling to help soften the crackers (a la tiramisu).

While most people opt to layer the

soaked matzos with straight-up ganache, melted chocolate, mousse or pudding, I took inspiration from the iconic black-and-white cookie, which boasts the perfect balance of chocolate and vanilla, and looks visually striking, too.

So, I soaked my matzos not in wine but in warm milk, and then layered them with ganache and lots of vanilla-scented whipped cream. The result is otherworldly.

You'll assemble this cake directly on the platter you'll serve it on, which makes it look impressive yet fun, with its tall stature, perfectly square shape and "naked" look, in which every layer of cream and chocolate is visible in all of its oozy, drippy glory.

The whole shebang gets popped in the fridge post-assembly for at least eight hours (and up to 24) to set up, making this a make-ahead dessert of the finest caliber.

The matzos never transform into something quite as pillow-y and spongy as cookies and graham crackers do when layered in an icebox cake, but the little chew they retain is wonderful with the soft, creamy textures of the whipped cream and chocolate.

Yes, the cake is large, as it calls for an entire box of matzos, but it lasts for three days once sliced, and leftovers are superb. Or you can halve it or freeze the leftovers, but the cake will get eaten — I guarantee it.

MATZO ICEBOX CAKE

Makes: 16 servings

For the milk chocolate ganache:

20 ounces milk chocolate, coarsely chopped (about 4 cups)

1 1/4 cups heavy cream

3/4 teaspoon kosher salt

For the vanilla whipped cream:

1 quart (4 cups) cold heavy cream

3/4 cup powdered sugar

1 tablespoon vanilla extract

For the milk soak:

2 cups whole milk

1 (10-ounce) box matzo crackers (9 sheets)

1. Make the ganache: Coarsely chop 20 ounces milk chocolate (about 2 cups). Place in a large microwave-safe bowl and add 1 1/4 cups heavy cream and 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt. Microwave on high in 50-second bursts, whisking after each burst, until melted and smooth, about 2 bursts. Let cool to room temperature. (Alternatively, place the chocolate and salt in a large heat-proof bowl. Heat the cream in a small saucepan over medium heat until small bubbles form around the edges, then pour over the chocolate. Let sit for 1 minute, then whisk until smooth.)

2. Make the whipped cream: Place 1 quart cold heavy cream, 3/4 cup powdered sugar and 1 tablespoon vanilla extract in bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment. (Alternatively, place in a large bowl if using an electric hand mixer.) Beat on medium until medium peaks form, about 3 minutes.

3. Make the milk soak: Microwave 2 cups whole milk in a microwave-safe 2-cup glass measuring cup or medium bowl until warm to the touch, 1 1/2 to 2 minutes. (Alternatively, warm the milk in a small saucepan over medium heat). Pour into an 8- or 9-inch square baking dish.

4. Assemble the cake: Place 1 matzo in the milk, press it down with your fingers so it is completely submerged, and let soak for 30 seconds. Lift the matzo out, let the excess milk drip back into the dish, and place the matzo on a serving platter.

Using an offset spatula or butter knife, spread about 1/3 cup of the ganache onto the soaked cracker, then spread with 1/4 cup of the whipped cream. Repeat soaking and layering the matzo with the ganache and whipped cream until you have only 1 matzo left. Soak this matzo and place it on top of the cake.

Spread the remaining ganache on the matzo. You may have a little whipped cream left over.

5. Refrigerate the cake uncovered until the matzo is softened and turned almost cake-like, at least 8 and up to 24 hours. (At 8 hours, the matzo is mildly toothsome with a pleasant chew to it. At 24 hours, it will be softer.) Slice with a sharp knife and serve.

Note: If you aren't making this cake for Passover, you can add malted milk powder (it isn't kosher) to whipped cream and milk soak, which makes this cake taste like a black-and-white malted milkshake. Add 1 1/3 cups malted milk powder to heavy cream, powdered sugar and vanilla extract for the whipped cream. For the soak, stir in 1/3 cup malted milk powder to the warm milk and whisk until dissolved.



This basic 5-ingredient glaze can be used on ham, chicken or pork chops. JOE LINGEMAN/ THEKITCHN.COM

Glaze

from Page 1

for 20 minutes per pound (about 2 to 2 1/2 hours total)

■ At 350 degrees: Bake for 10 minutes per pound (about 1 to 1 1/2 hours total)

■ The ham is ready when it has reached an internal temperature of 120 to 140 degrees.

EASY BROWN SUGAR HONEY GLAZE FOR EASTER HAM

Makes: Enough glaze for 10- to 12-pound ham (about 2 cups)

2 cups packed light brown sugar

1 cup honey

1/2 cup Dijon mustard

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar

1. While the ham is heating in the oven, place all the ingredients in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat and bring to a simmer, stirring regularly to break up any lumps. Reduce the heat to medium-low and continue to simmer slowly until reduced by a third, darkened and thickened, about 20 minutes.

2. Remove the ham from the oven, uncover and baste with the warm glaze, working the glaze between the cuts in the ham wherever possible. Return the ham to the oven for the last 30 minutes of cooking.

Note: The glaze can be made ahead and stored in the refrigerator for up to five days. Rewarm over low heat until it reaches a simmer before using.

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Soulful and joyous wines from Bordeaux

By Eric Asimov
The New York Times

Sales of Bordeaux in the United States took off last year, rising by 24% in volume, according to the Bordeaux Wine Council, a trade group.

The rise spanned all categories of Bordeaux, the group said, from inexpensive, mass-produced wines to the most prestigious bottles. Partly, it said, it was because of the elimination of the 25% tariffs on certain wines from the European Union that had been imposed in 2019 by then-President Donald Trump in a trade dispute. The tariffs were suspended last year by President Joe Biden.

This is great news for Bordeaux producers who have struggled to rebuild their once-robust market in the United States after both the financial crash of 2008 and a series of image problems that damaged the wine's standing, particularly among younger drinkers and sommeliers.

To these people, Bordeaux seemed a stodgy place where the estates were owned by billionaires, banks or luxury goods corporations. They associated Bordeaux with wealthy status seekers and those obsessed with high scores from established wine critics. Bordeaux producers, they thought, were aristocrats more interested in silk cravats than vineyard dirt.

Here is the truth: Despite the vast amount of attention paid to the most prestigious and expensive chateaus, most Bordeaux producers are small farmers — vigneron who farm the vineyards and make the wines. I have spent much of the past decade seeking out Bordeaux vigneron whose wines can be soulful and joyous, and I have found a surprising number.

In the waning weeks of winter I went shopping



TONY CENICOLA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

in New York wine shops for Bordeaux made by vigneron and found these bottles, which I recommend enthusiastically.

Some of these producers are tiny. Most farm either organically or biodynamically — Bordeaux as a region was late to this, but I'm seeing more and more major producers moving in the organic and biodynamic direction.

Here are the bottles, in ascending order of price.

Château le Bergey

Bordeaux 2020, 14%, \$14:

Here is a great Bordeaux value, a wine made from biodynamically farmed grapes that offers the classic, if not especially complex, refreshment prized by longtime Bordeaux lovers. Château le Bergey is the entry-level label of Château l'Escart, which itself is a fine producer. This is a 60-40 blend of cabernet sauvignon and merlot, fermented and aged in concrete tanks and made for early consumption. It's

dry and lightly tannic, with earthy flavors of flowers and red berries.

Château Peybonhomme-les-Tours Blaye-Côtes:

de Bordeaux 2019, 14%, \$18: Château Peybonhomme-les-Tours is owned by the Hubert family, which has farmed biodynamically since 2000. The estate makes a range of wines, including Energies, which is aged in amphora. This bottle, the estate's workhorse, is 70% merlot, 20% cabernet franc and 10% malbec. It's an earthy, juicy pleasure, with just enough of a tannic grip to give the wine structure.

Château la Grolet Côtes de Bourg Origines 2019, 13.5%, \$19:

This is Right Bank Bordeaux of the old school: soft, beautifully balanced and approachable, yet lean, pure and refreshing, with enough acidity to give life and shape to the wine. Grolet, also owned and farmed by the Hubert family, is a great value, year in and year out.

Origines is 70% merlot, 15% cabernet sauvignon, 10% cabernet franc and 5% malbec.

Château du Champ des Treilles Bordeaux Le Petit Champ 2019, 14.5%, \$23:

In Ste.-Foy, on the eastern edge of Bordeaux, Corinne and Jean-Michel Comme farm biodynamically on limestone and clay soils. They make two reds. One is barrel aged and is considered the "grand vin," and this one, Le Petit Champ, is aged in steel vats. The 2019, 60% merlot, 30% cabernet franc, 8% cabernet sauvignon and 2% petit verdot, is pure with a delicate, inviting texture, though the tannins are still fairly firm.

Château Falfas Côtes de Bourg Les Demoiselles de Falfas 2020, 14%, \$27:

Château Falfas, in the Right Bank Côtes de Bourg area, is a favorite of mine. The top wines of this small estate are superb, but require some aging. Les Demoiselles, the second wine, is made with the

younger vines. It's full of fresh, pure, beautifully focused fruit flavors, yet tannic enough to provide clear but unobtrusive structure.

Falfas has farmed biodynamically since 1988, one of the first in Bordeaux's recent history to do so, and practices minimalist winemaking in the cellar. Demoiselles is 75% merlot and 25% cabernet sauvignon.

Château Massereau Vin de France Cuvée Tradition 2018, 13.5%, \$27:

Château Massereau makes both sweet wines and dry reds like this one. This cuvée is generally 60% merlot, 30% cabernet sauvignon, with the remainder split between cabernet franc and petit verdot. Massereau used to be labeled Bordeaux Supérieur, but withdrew its wines from the appellation after running afoul of the staid bureaucracy. It now bottles the dry wines as Vin de France. Regardless, it is pointed, precise, savory and refreshing, structured

but not tannic, with a slight herbal edge.

Château Auney l'Hermitage Graves Blanc Cuvée Cana 2018, 13%, \$30:

The virtues of dry white Bordeaux are a hard sell, possibly because good examples from the best areas, Pessac-Léognan and Graves, are expensive and not easy to find. I love white Bordeaux and I love the succulence of the sémillon grape. (Cuvée Cana is 50% sémillon, 35% sauvignon blanc, 10% sauvignon gris and 5% muscadelle, an unusual blend in a region where sémillon and the other grapes have lost ground to sauvignon blanc.) Like chenin blanc, sémillon has a floral, honeyed flavor, a mineral tang and a luscious texture that keeps me rolling it around in my mouth because it feels so good.

Auney l'Hermitage farms its vineyard organically on gravelly sand and clay.

Domaine de Galouche Vin de France Vin de Jardin 2018, 13.5%, \$45:

Tiny Domaine de Galouche is situated between the Garonne and the Dordogne rivers. It could use the simple Bordeaux appellation, but has instead taken the appellation Vin de France. That appears on the label in much smaller print than the fanciful Vin de Jardin, a pointed contrast to the movement popular in the 1990s called vins de garage, or garage wines. The vineyard is farmed organically. This cuvée is primarily merlot but also includes minute percentages of white grapes. The result is a delight to drink, fresh and alive, with earthy, stony flavors of flowers and red fruits. One of the partners in Galouche, Marco Pelletier, is also a world-class sommelier and an owner of Vantrre, an excellent wine-oriented bistro in Paris.



Our recipe tester, Brielle, 10, said, "The recipe was easy to follow and descriptive. The bread tasted wonderful and was very soft and delicious." **ELLE SIMONE/AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN**

All doughs lead to Rome

America's Test Kitchen

Pizza bianca, which means "white pizza" in Italian, is a popular snack sold at bakeries in Rome.

This type of pizza might seem a little strange at first, because it isn't topped with any tomato sauce or cheese, but trust us, it's delicious.

ROMAN-STYLE FOCACCIA

Makes: 8 servings

For the dough:

3 cups (15 ounces) all-purpose flour
1½ teaspoons instant or rapid-rise yeast
1½ teaspoons sugar
1¾ cups (13 ½ ounces) room-temperature water
1½ teaspoons kosher salt
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

To finish and bake:

Vegetable oil spray
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

2 tablespoons fresh rosemary leaves
1 teaspoon kosher salt

1. For the dough: In bowl of a stand mixer, whisk together flour, yeast and sugar. Fit the stand mixer with a paddle attachment.

2. Add water to mixer bowl, start mixer on low speed, and mix until no dry flour is visible, 3 to 4 minutes, scraping down bowl occasionally. Stop mixer and let dough sit for 10 minutes.

3. Add 1½ teaspoons salt to mixer bowl. Start mixer on low speed and mix until combined, about 30 seconds. Increase speed to medium-high and knead dough for 8 minutes. (Dough will look shiny, smooth and very wet, almost like cake batter.)

Traditionally, pizza bianca is baked directly on the "floor" (or the stone bottom) of a pizza oven and is lightly charred, bubbly and mostly flat.

For the following recipe, we bake the dough in a baking pan, which makes it puff up like another Italian specialty, focaccia.

So think of this recipe as a pizza bianca-focaccia mash-up. Buon appetito!

4. Pour 2 tablespoons oil into a large bowl and evenly coat sides of bowl with oil. Transfer dough to the bowl with the oil and flip dough to evenly coat with oil. Cover bowl with plastic wrap. Let dough rise until bubbly and nearly tripled in size, 2 to 2 ½ hours.

5. To finish and bake: While dough rises, adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 450 degrees. Spray the inside bottom and sides of a 13-by-9-inch metal baking pan with vegetable oil spray. Pour remaining 2 tablespoons oil into the baking pan and use a pastry brush to evenly coat pan with oil.

6. When dough is ready, transfer dough to a greased baking pan. Use your fingertips to gently pat and stretch dough out to the corners of the baking pan. (If dough snaps back when you press it to the corners of baking pan, cover it with plastic wrap, let it rest for 10 minutes, and try again.)

7. Let dough sit for 10 minutes. Use a fork to lightly poke the surface of the dough all over about 20 times. Sprinkle rosemary and remaining 1 teaspoon salt evenly over dough.

8. Place baking pan in oven and bake until focaccia is golden brown, 20 to 25 minutes.

9. Transfer baking pan to cooling rack and let focaccia cool in pan for 15 minutes. Cut into pieces and serve.

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TONY CENICOLA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

How writer Emily Nunn turned salad into a soapbox

By Kim Severson
The New York Times

ATLANTA — Emily Nunn won't drive on the freeways here, so it can take 45 minutes to get from her apartment to the cavernous indoor Your Dekalb Farmers Market, whose inexpensive and bountiful produce selection she prefers.

We hadn't even reached the lettuce bins before she started in.

"Everybody in the food business hates me," she said, taking a moment to defend both her vigorous use of mint and her penchant for social-media agitation, particularly when it comes to ageism. "It's because I have so much fun. And I don't care anymore."

The word "everybody" is hyperbole, of course. After years as a food writer at high-profile publications like *The New Yorker*, Nunn now swims in a much smaller part of the food-media sea: She writes a twice-weekly newsletter about salad.

Nunn, 61, is as surprised as anyone that *The Department of Salad* is holding steady as the sixth-most-popular paid food newsletter on Substack, which is home to hundreds of newsletters about food and cooking. Hers was a career Hail Mary pass during the first year of the pandemic, when she was eating a lot of salad. She would post photos of them on her Twitter feed with a comment like "Here is another damn salad."

She sometimes mentioned her tiny hometown, Galax, Virginia, and her Aunt Mariah's antics, suggested that Republicans perform specific sex acts, or crowdsourced tuna salad recipes.

She also tweeted about how life looked from the vantage point of an older single woman: "I once went to a dinner party with all couples and one of the wives asked me: But what do you do at night? I told her I freebased."

The Department of Salad could just as easily have been *The Department of Dips*, she said, because she was eating a lot of them, too.

"Look, I'm not the world's biggest salad fan," she said as we arrived back at *Department of Salad* headquarters — a small, tasteful shotgun apartment with a balcony and a counter full of vinegars in a slightly fancy suburban building.

"I love salad, and I've gotten better at salad, but it's this kind of food writing that I've missed," she said. "I don't want to be going to the parties in Brooklyn and writing about amping up the flavor of everything I love it, but I can't do that. I had to make something of my own."

The excitement of reinventing yourself can be extraordinary, and the wide world of food provides plenty of opportunity. (See: James Beard, Julia Child, Anthony Bourdain, Carla Hall, etc.)

After a long writing career that included co-creating *The New Yorker's Tables for Two* column, reporting for the Chicago Tribune, blogging, contributing to the website Food52 and publishing a book, Nunn found herself living a quiet country life in a leaky converted horse barn in North Carolina that she found on Craigslist. It was a good place, she said, to recover from a rare but treatable form of blood cancer that struck in 2018.

Then the pandemic hit. The money from her well-reviewed 2017 memoir "The Comfort Food Diaries," which chronicled life after a drinking career and the suicide of her closeted gay brother, was almost gone. She couldn't get hired by a mainstream publication. She was down to rolling quarters.



Emily Nunn, seen here in Sandy Springs, Georgia, on Feb. 28, writes the *Department of Salad* newsletter. "I'm exhausted all the time," she says. "I always have salad dressing in my hair." **MELISSA GOLDEN/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS**

One of the true glories of a Southern summer is that month or so when the tomatoes pile up next to the cucumbers on the kitchen counter, and the peaches and berries are sweet with juice. Tossing them into salad kept Nunn sane. Her Twitter account, a funny, cranky and political corner of the social-media universe with a modest 18,300 followers, kept her connected.

A food writer suggested on Twitter that she start a salad newsletter. J.

Smith-Cameron, the actor who plays Gerri Kellman on "Succession," tweeted that she would read something like that. By October 2020, Nunn had one going.

The following February, she started charging \$50 a year or \$5.50 a month. She made \$20,000 right out of the gate. Her followers include British food writer Diana Henry, media personalities like Soledad O'Brien, pediatric surgeons, Vanity Fair writers, people from Cleveland and doula.

Nunn wouldn't disclose how many of her more than 17,000 subscribers pay or what she earns now. But she did say she is making more than she did when she was laid off from her job as a roaming feature writer for the Chicago Tribune in 2009.

Her witty newsletters are a bridge mix of information. She might feature an interview with someone with a point of view about salad, or use a recipe from a vintage cookbook or an old menu as a writing prompt.

The recipes, like orange and radish salad or herby rice salad with peas and prosciutto, only sometimes include lettuce.

"Salad is a lot of fun because it's not like lasagna," Nunn says.

"If I was doing a lasagna newsletter it would be like, 'This time put Italian sausage in it or make a béchamel!' But there are a million different kinds of salads."

He gave her his recipe for garlicky carrot slaw and celery root remoulade.

For her first newsletter,

she had a long chat with Mollie Katzen, who wrote

"The Moosewood Cook-

book," and they went deep

into the preparation of

lettuce.

Lettuce care is a partic-

ular skill of Nunn's. "What's

worse than sand in salad?"

she asked. She swishes

each variety a few times,

separately, in a big stain-

less steel bowl, then dries

them in a spinner she found

at a yard sale. She is also

good at reviving lettuce

and arugula, by wrapping

it in slightly damp paper

towels and tucking it inside

a zip-top bag.

Other tricks include

shaving unripe avocado



Nunn shops at Your Dekalb Farmers Market in Decatur, Georgia — her favorite spot for produce. The *Department of Salad* is holding steady as the sixth-most-popular paid food newsletter on Substack, which is home to hundreds of newsletters about food and cooking.



"Salad is a lot of fun because it's not like lasagna," Nunn says. "If I was doing a lasagna newsletter it would be like, 'This time put Italian sausage in it or make a béchamel!' But there are a million different kinds of salads."

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towels and tucking it inside

a zip-top bag.

Other tricks include

shaving unripe avocado

on a mandoline, using the

slices to add a nutty texture

to a salad without the

sometimes overpowering

bitterness of ripe ones.

Nunn is an advocate of

putting lots of citrus and

soft herbs in salads, and

calling on red onion to save

the day. "I have this theory

that whenever there's

anything wrong with

anything, add a tablespoon

of very finely chopped raw

onion, and everything

will be fine."

Yukari Sakamoto, author

of "Food Sake Tokyo," is

building a collection of

favorite *Department of Salad* recipes.

Sakamoto trusts Nunn's

palate and is a fan of her

voice. "It's a bit sassy, which

sometimes has me laughing

out loud on a busy Tokyo

ORANGE AND RADISH SALAD

Makes: 4 to 6 servings

Total time: 15 minutes

1/3 cup fresh lemon juice

(from 2 lemons)

2 tablespoons sugar

Flaky sea salt

4 large oranges (preferably a mix of Cara Cara and navel oranges), peeled, pith completely removed, citrus sliced into rounds, deseeded and chilled, plus fresh orange zest for garnish if desired

1 bunch red radishes, cut into thin matchsticks and chilled

1. Combine lemon juice, sugar and 1/4 teaspoon salt in a jar. Twist on the lid and shake until the sugar and salt dissolve; chill dressing thoroughly.

2. When ready to serve, simply arrange the orange rounds on a serving dish or individual plates, top with a pretty pile of radish matchsticks and drizzle with the dressing. Grate a bit of orange zest on top, if desired, and serve with the tiniest bit of flaky sea salt for finishing, if you like — but that exact amount is best left to individual diners.

— Recipe from Emily Nunn and James Beard; adapted by Kim Severson

HERBY RICE SALAD WITH PEAS AND PROSCIUTTO

Makes: 6 to 8 servings

Total time: 30 minutes, plus cooling

Flaky sea salt

2 cups long-grain white rice

3 cups shelled peas, briefly

blanched (if fresh) or raw (if frozen)

1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil

A few thick slices of red onion (these will be removed, so you want them big enough to locate for removal; they are like the booster rockets you leave behind on your way into rice-salad outer space)

2 lemons, zested and juiced, plus additional lemon wedges

1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes

1/2 cup slivered basil, plus

more to taste

1/2 cup slivered mint, plus

more to taste

1/4 cup chopped parsley, plus

more to taste

2 or 3 tablespoons sliced

chives (or 1 to 2 tablespoons of finely chopped red onion), plus more to taste

12 to 16 slices of prosciutto (optional)

Fresh ricotta (preferably a local or all-natural brand), for serving (optional)

1. Prepare the rice: Bring a large pot of water to a rolling boil and salt it. Stir in the rice. When the water returns to a boil, reduce the heat to low, cover and cook the rice at a gentle simmer for about 15 minutes, or until tender but still a bit firm and not at all mushy. Drain the rice in a colander set in the sink, then transfer it to a large bowl.

You can refrigerate it after this step or use it once it has cooled completely.

2. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, combine the peas,

olive oil, sliced onion, lemon

zest and juice, red pepper

flakes and 1/2 teaspoon

salt. Allow to marinate, refrigerated, for 20 minutes or up to 3 days.

3. Remove the sliced onion

from the pea mixture and

discard. Add 5 cups of the

cooled or refrigerated rice

to the pea mixture, along

with the basil, mint, parsley

and chives; toss gently to

combine. Taste for salt and

lemon juice. This is important